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THURSDAY, MAY 14TH 2009

## 'Mysterious orbs' video has been viewed by 295 **GEM** readers who debate 'What exactly were they?'

SINCE last week's edition of The GEM, more than 275 people have viewed the mysterious 'brilliant orbs' video on line at www.barrytodav.co.uk.

Steve and Gill Ryan, who live in Barry, recorded the two bright lights one Wednesday night in the evening sky near Dow Corning on Gill's Samsung mobile phone – and there was a mystery sting in the tail - with one of the lights appearing to eject black objects from it.

A number of readers have been in touch with the-ories about the mystery orbs.

Glyn Evans, from Bridgend, was amazed when he saw The GEM's story.

He said: "My eyes popped out when I saw the article – the orbs were just like a light I saw in the sky above Fairwater in Cardiff.

"It was on a Tuesday a month ago at about

9.05pm – I noted the time because it looked unusual – at first I thought it was a hot air balloon, but I could see flames within the light.
"It headed off in the direction of St Fagans."

Flames in the sphere chimes with a theory of Gary Owen, a GEM reader from Barry.
Gary said: "I believe these were paper hot air balloons. They are about three feet high with a wire cross section at the bottom, where you place a small tea light candle.

"When you light the candle, the heat makes the balloon rise into the air

"The balloon is made of thin paper so it glows





#### ABOVE:

At one minute 45 seconds in the video black objects appear to be ejected from the ball of light in different directions. Earlier there are two 'orbs', but one disappears.

white with the light from the candle. As the candle burns out the air in the balloon, it cools and the balloon comes down.'

Gary works at Zeon Chemicals near Dow Corning and said these sort of balloons have landed in the factory.

Another GEM reader from Sully speculated that the lights may have been connected to the lifeboat

Mr Wally Davies explained: "I live in Sully and saw a similar thing some weeks ago.

"About a week later, I saw them again and went

to the rear of the house looking toward the sea - they

to the rear of the notice looking looking the sea – they were flares from the Barry lifeboat."

Chris Eveleigh checked out the video and commented: "I checked out the 'orb vid' and have found with the Google maps that they line up with the Bristol Airport planes' landing lights which are on for the control tower to see them.

"Some look of Cities (Steps and Gill's con and "Sorry, Jack and Caitlin (Steve and Gill's son and

granddaughter who were excited to see the lights) I do believe in UFOs, but this one is identified. The truth is out there!"

View the video at www.Barry-today.co.uk and see

## Brynhill Golf Club the most romantic place in all of Barry!



ABOVE: The recently-wed couples of Brynhill Golf Club. From left, Tony and Karen Yeo; Simmon and Debbie Pringle; and Kath and Dave Nicholson.
PICTURE by MANDY THOMAS

WHERE is the most romantic place in Barry? On Nell's Point gazing at a golden sunset? Or perhaps a candlelit restaurant in the town? Or behind the bar in **Brynhill Golf** Club?

Well, if three weddings in three months is anything to go by, Brynhill wins hands

There must be something in the beer because club steward Debbie and two of the bar staff Kath

## by TIM CHAPMAN

a trip down the aisle in recent months. First off the mark was

Kath (30) who married Dave (43) at Barry Registry Office on January 24, and is expecting a baby in November. Next into a wedding

dress was Debbie (41) who has been the club steward for just over two years.

She married first team captain Simmon Pringle (43) at Holy Trinity Church on March 7 and they jetted off for a honeymoon in Toronto, the

Rockies and Vancouver. Twenty one days later Karen (28) followed suit and married Tony (33) at the Copthorne Hotel, followed by a reception at Brynhill, and a honeymoon at Sharm el Sheikh. Debbie laughed at the

suggestion that Brynhill Golf Club bar was the Welsh equivalent of Gretna Green.

"No, I think it's pure chance, a funny coincidence. Karen came in last May to book her

wedding reception and asked whether we had a iob, and I said ves.

"Kath has worked at Brynhill for a few years, and I have worked at the club for 10 years, but the fact that we all got married so close together is just one of those

things."
Can Debbie be trusted? The GEM's advice is if that if you are a confirmed bachelor, play a round of golf at
Brynhill but drink care fully at the bar, and if you're a woman looking for a husband you know where to get a job!

(To see their wedding pictures, turn to page 3)



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## 'Nothing jolly about litter

HE recent letter from vour reader headeď 'Drinks ban on Barry Island' naively expresses the opinion that behind. 'late night parties on the beach,' at Barry Island, sound

rather jolly.

Maybe! but who is listening? Certainly not the hundreds of lawabiding beach visitors who spend summer days with their young children enjoying a clean and glass and

can-free facility. Just as dog's mess is totally unacceptable, so are empty bottles, cans and hundreds of cigarette ends that uncaring late night revellers leave

I know this, as I often pick them up before I can occupy my chosen spot to settle for a swim and to soak up the beach noises from happy families, content that their children can run and play on a litter-free beach. (Name and address supplied)

### 'Thank you to our volunteers'

PERATION Christmas Child is holding a 'thank you evening' for our volunteers who worked at the Talbot Green Warehouse last year.

Over 140 volunteers spent many hours during the campaign providing gifts, checking shoe boxes and cartoning them for transport, then loading the lorries which took the shoe boxes to East European Countries some volunteers have been attending for

many years.

It will be held at Talbot Green Community Centre Cowbridge Road, Talbot Green CF72 8HS on June 18 from 7.30pm-9pm.

We hope to have presentations from volunteers who went out last year and delivered the shoe boxes to the children. There will also be displays showing other projects that Samaritan's Purse are involved in.

We are hoping this will be an informative and interesting evening where we can get together socially. Why not come and bring a friend? Ted and Margaret Bird, Llanedeyrn (Telephone 029 2073 4794)

#### Communication skills lacking

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comment on the Safer Vale article printed in The GEM on April 30.

A few years ago, there was a strong campaign to improve skills in communication/spelling and composition within the English language and to reduce 'gobbledegook' smart talk, so loved by politicians.

This article, which was composed by a council department, per-

FEEL obliged to sonified all the bad points reviled by academics at that time.

The language is flowery and overblown - is it intended to bore people?

Some modern spelling abuse also crept in ... most noticeably the word 'sinage' - I take it that means signs.

All in all, an article that will do nothing to improve communication skills

James Tuttle, Penarth

#### THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

## Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters should include an address and contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

## Tackle bullying before tackling the dress code'

DON'T normally write letters to the press, locally or otherwise, but I feel that I must make my views felt regarding double standards of dress code at the Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.

I totally agree with the parent who wrote in on April 30, regarding staff dress standards compared with the children.

My granddaughter is regularly checked to make

sure she is not wearing inappropriate clothing. For Dr Vincent Brown to say that he is disappointed that parents go directly to the press without consulting the school first, is amazing. I personally have written to him concerning the

ress code, but I have received no reply. I have also phoned the school about petty dress rules such as hair bands being the wrong colour.

I spoke to Mrs X who said that Miss Y was not

available and that she would ring me later. Guess what? No-one ever did!

I feel that if the headteacher and his staff concentrated on the bullying and anti-social behaviour of a minority of pupils, the majority of normal, well-

behaved students could progress their education more confidently.
(Name and address supplied)

### Christie organ move welcomed

THE idea suggested by a GEM reader that the Christie organ be moved from Barry Memorial Hall to the Theatre Royal cinema, is something the Save Our Cinema Association (SOCA) would look into - if we were able to establish the landowner's decision on

the site's future...
Our intentions to see the building reopen as a cinema have been made known, but a response has not been forthcoming.

Given the opportunity, SOCA are still willing to negotiate and hope a residential development is not the next attraction signifying THE END for this county treasure listed building.

P Sutton, Barry

## Harnessing tidal energy would be more efficient and cheaper

WAS disappointed to read in John Smith MP's annual report (GEM, April 23) that he supports the the best project.

Severn Barrage. Just because the Barrage would produce the most energy out of the five short-listed options, does not automatically mean that it is

#### SKATERS NEED PROTECTION

DON'T know whether Richard Taylor was wearing head protection when he was killed, but as he is an icon for the local skate park I hope that all those who use the park will wear the necessary protective gear. Mrs DE Coombes Herridge, Barry

#### NO SHOW AT JAZZ NIGHT

WAS surprised and disgusted that Llantwit Major town councillors – with the exception of Coun Russell Downe thought fit not to be present at the recent charity jazz night.

It was a lovely evening, enjoyed by all, and the final charity event for our Lady

Mayor, Mrs Molly Lane who had raised enough funds to purchase two defribilators – one for Llantwit Major and one which was presented to the Mayor of Cowbridge

for their town. Sadly, our Town Council do not appear to give their support to this potentially life-saving gift to our town.

What an excellent way to lose votes!

Mrs Pat Maynard, Llantwit Major

Being the largest project also means it is the most expensive for the taxpayer. The environmental damage that would be caused by a Lavernock-Weston Barrage would be huge and could undermine the fight against climate

change.
I feel John Smith has got it wrong on this

Plaid is calling for European support for Severn Estuary tidal power schemes that min-imise environmental

damage while maximising zero-carbon electricity generation at a cost affordable to consumers.

We believe that the tidal energy potential of the Severn Estuary can be developed more efficiently, cheaply and with a less negative impact on the environment and shipping movements.

This could be achieved by a combination of lagoons and tidal stream turbines. Ioan Bellin (Plaid Cymru European candidate)

#### HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 21)

The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15-20 minutes earlier.

	1 ime	Ηt	rime	н
DATE	AM	M	PM	M
14 Thur	10.41	13.0	22.57	12.9
15 Fri	11.15	12.4	23.26	12.3
16 Sat	11.55	12.0		
17 Sun	00.21	12.1	12.46	11.9
18 Mon	01.14	11.7	13.47	11.6
19 Tues	02.30	11.8	15.03	11.8
20 Wed	03.44	12.3	16.09	12.4
21 Thur	04.44	13.1	17.11	13.1

#### **USEFUL VALE** INFORMATION

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111

(Emergency number 999)

COASTGUARD 01792 366534 FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188

Alcohol and drugs:

HELPLINES

Drinkline 0800 9178282

National Drugs Helpline 0800 776600

DASH 01656 650686

SSAFA - Forces Help for serving and exservice men, women and families 01656

**RAF Association Welfare Officer** 01495 249522/01446 740522

SAMARITANS (emotional support)

01656 662333

VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755 MENTAL DISTRESS

(Mental Health Matters) 01656 767045 Mental Health Helpline:

Freephone 0800 132 737

MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan 01446 730792 or www.mindinthevale.org.uk

CHILDLINE 0800 1111 -

www.childline.org.uk

Rape Crisis Centre 08451 221331. RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191. AIDS helplines 0800 567123

Child abuse - NSPCC 0800 800500. Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845

Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000. Inroads Drugs Project - 42, Holton Road, Barry.

01446 404040 Vale Victim & Witness Support -Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street,

#### Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704. <u>MP & AM's</u> **SURGERY TIMES**

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769.
Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service out-

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

Citizens Advice: At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Office opening times vary throughout the week. Telephone 0845 120 3756 between 10am and noon for details). Further information on www.adviceguide.org.uk

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999. Gas - Gas emergency number 0800 111999. Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130. Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 709105. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline -02920 673000.

To report a fly tipping incident - 02920 673000.

#### **HOSPITALS**

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.

For Out Of Hours Chemists, call the Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board on 02920 350600, or NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.



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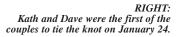
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## **BRYNHILL GOLF CLUB** IS THE PLACE WHERE WEDDING BELLS O



ABOVE: Debbie and Simmon were married at Holy Trinity Church on March 7 and are pictured outside Barry Castle.





ABOVE: Karen and Tony were married at the Copthorne Hotel on March 28.



#### Cannabis seized in police

raid at Rhoose NEIGHBOURHOOD

police officers from the Vale have served drugs warrants at two addresses in Rhoose.

Cannabis and drugs paraphernalia was seized and a 26-yearold man arrested and cautioned for possession of cannabis. Rhoose

Neighbourhood Beat Manager PC Philip Davies said: "I am delighted that members of the public feel able to pass on information to the authorities. As a consequence, drugs warrants were obtained and executed with a positive result"

## TWO-YEAR ASBO

A 30 year-old man from Barry has received a two year Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO).

Nicholas Lincoln received the ASBO after persistently harassing members of the public in the

Barry area.
The Anti-Social Behaviour Order prohibits Lincoln from the following:

• Entering any licensed premises except for shops in the borough of

Barry;

Consuming alcohol in any public place throughout the borough of Barry;

• Not to do or say anything that causes distress or is likely to cause harassment alarm or distress to any person in the borough of Barry.

PC Mike Hawkes

said: "This positive action in securing the two year ASBO demonstrates the Safer Partnership is tackling anti-social behaviour within our communities and is getting tough on those who display this type of behaviour."



Nicholas Lincoln

## Laptop stolen

VALE police are amount of data which is investigating a burgla-important to the charity.

ry at a house on Port Detective Constable Road West, Barry Chris Davies of Barry between 10.30am on CID told The GEM: "We Sunday, April 12 and 5pm on Tuesday, April 14, when jewellery, two wristwatches and credit cards were taken.

creen Hewlett Packard to contact police."

Anyone with informalap top computer, which

are appealing for any information regarding this crime.
"I would also appeal

redit cards were to anyone who is approached to purchase a Hewlett Packard lap top

belongs to national chari- tion can contact DC y Scope. While the Davies on 01446 731606, puter is protected, it con-tains a considerable 0800 555 111.

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FREE Vegetable side dish for orders over £20.00

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Offers can be withdrawn without notice and are offered at the discretion of management.

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- 2. Any 2 Curries (up to the value of £5.95)
  3. 2 Pulao Rice
- 4. 1 Nan Bread 2 Papadom
- 6. Mango & Onion Salad

(These deals are not valid in conjunction with any other offers)

Meal for 2 only £14.95

Choose... Any 2 Main Course (up to the value of £5.95)
• Any 2 rice • Any 1 Nan • 2 Papadoms

• 2 Chutneys (These deals are not valid in conjunction with any other offers)

Meal for 1 only £10

Choose... Starter (up to the value of £2.75)
• Any Main Course (up to the value of £5.95)

• 1 Pulao Rice • 1 Nan • 1 Papadom

• 1 Chutney
(These deals are not valid in conjunction with any other offers)

#### **BUSINESS HOURS:**

Sun - Thurs 5.30pm - 11.00pm Fri - Sat 5.30pm - 11.30pm Closed Tuesdays

#### Chef's Flavours of the Month

This month our executive chef has dreamed up a heavenly collection of mouth-watering dishes to enhance the evening take-away & home delivery menu.

TIFFIN PLATTER (For 2 persons) (Chicken Pakora, Sheek Kebab, Onion Bhaji & Samosa LAAL MAAS £5.73

LAAL MAAS \$\frac{\pmathbf{\pmath}\pmathbf{\pmathbf{\pmathbf{\pmathbf{\pmathbf{\pmathbf{\pmath

(Chicken tikka, chick peas, spinach & potato in a rich Bengali style sauce)

MURGH MIRCH MASALA £5.5(
Tender pieces of chicken tikka cooked in a red chilli & £5.50

SUBZI PANEER JALFREZI (V) (Fairly hot, cooked with chillies, fresh spices and Indian

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Local

Age

Concern

fayre BARRY Age Concern held a

very successful

at the Civic

Road, Barry.

Offices in Holton

The favre was opened

by Coun Stuart Egan, the Mayor of Barry. He

thanked Barry Age Concern for all their

help to the community within Barry and

Rhoose. There was a wide

range of attractive stalls. The Axis Historical

Society was also there with a display of old pic

Benefits advice is just

one of the many services that Barry Age Concern provides.

The event raised £370 and the money will be used for the benefit of

Guide dog quiz and raffle A GRAND quiz and raf-fle on behalf of Guide Dogs for the Blind will be held at Cadoxton Bowling Pavilion on May 25, 2pm for 2.30pm start.

Lots of great prizes and fun. Everybody wel-

Barry Age Concern.

tures of the town.

spring fayre recent-

### LATEST NEWS FROM 372 BARRY SQUADRON AIR TRAINING CORPS

## Local Cadets make a splash on scuba course

Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron, Air Training Corps, had a splashing time, scuba diving at the National Diving and Activity Centre in Lydney.

The day was about having fun, and to give the Cadets an experience of the thrills of scuba diving. The introductory course was designed to give the cadets this experience in the safe environment of a local

swimming pool. The Cadets on arrival were given a detailed safety brief and an outline of activities, before being issued with their equipment. They laughed when they tried on their flippers and realised it was easier to shuffle backwards, than walk forwards.

Once trained, the Cadets explored the pool carrying out a series of drills and exercises, becoming a little more challenging each time the more they became

In no time at all, the Cadets were confidently spending 10-15 minutes at a time underwater. At the end of the afternoon, several had a race to swim a length underwa-ter which was won by Cadet Ryan McPeake

Cadet Eloise Johnson said: "Scuba diving was amazing, I was a bit nervous at first, but after a bit of practice it was easy, fun and I can't wait

to do it again."

Adventurous training forms a very important part of the Cadets' training and includes caving, camping, day walks, expeditions as well as

kayaking.
The training and experience encourages Cadets to explore the great outdoors; improve confidence and fitness, learn new skills and ulti-mately provide enjoyment mixed with excite-

Cadets who took part were: Paige Evans, Eloise Johnson, Ryan McPeake, Jess Peters, Luke Evans, Sam and Vanessa Lazenbury.

The Cadets are now



ABOVE: Paige Evans, Luke Evans, and Jess Peters with the instructor.

action-packed programme of flying, glid-ing, shooting, sports, training camps, visits and expeditions.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Sauadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. The squadron parades on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-9.30pm, behind Adams Funeral Parlour; phone

> RIGHT: Rvan McPeake scuba diving.





## joining or the Air Training Corps. JASON HORTON

## Rhoose Lifeguards in bank staff's debt!



Staff from Barclay's Bank who took part in the painting of Rhoose Lifeguard Club.

BANK staff swapped pens for paintbrushes to undertake a decorating project at Rhoose Lifeguard Club.
Staff at Barclays' debt recovery

nit in Cardiff came to the rescue of charitable organisation, Rhoose Lifeguard Club, with a complete transformation of their lifeguard but.

A spokesperson at Rhoose Lifeguard Club commented: "The

lifeguard hut looks amazing and will be enjoyed by many people within our community. I am very grateful to the staff at Barclays for their effort and

support."
Mike Jones from Barclays in Cardiff said: "We believe that the expertise and skills of our employees, as well as our money, can make a huge difference to the communities we live and work in."

## Charlie is 'dressed to kill' at local dog show

was delighted to see fantastic turnout the at Victoria Park Dog Show on the May Bank Holiday.

He said: "There were so many dogs at the show of all shapes and sizes. This type of free event proved a big hit with dog owners from all over the Vale taking part.'

Coun Hodges met Charlie, a Westie from Rhws, who was 'dressed to kill' in his black tie and tails.

All money raised went to the PDSA and the



Richard the owner from Rhoose, Coun Nic Hodges with Charlie and Dr Ian Johnson.

## Nursery school completes its eco-friendly green project

BUTE Cottage nursery school in Penarth is on a mission to become an eco-friendly school.

It already holds two international green eco school flags and were recently awarded seven grade ones in an ESTYN inspection.

Assistant head Hilary Hanmer said: "For the last two years we have been building a sustainable classroom in our grounds. This

has involved a huge effort by pupils, staff, governors and the community and we were delighted to celebrate with a big party for all parents and children on May 13."

The official opening of the classroom will be held on Friday, May 22, when Jane Hutt AM, Bryan Jeffries, director of education and all involved in the project have been invit-



## Families join in a mini beast hunt! It families of hunt at Porthkerry and care for creatures as Geography Week. waves hit Barry's peb.

Barry Island Primary Park last week. School's nursery class enjoyed a minibeast

The children were learning to recognise

as part of the school's

part of their work on the stories of Eric Carle and

Mel and Rob, the park rangers, helped the chil-dren to find cardinal beetles, snails, slugs and much more. The families were able to make use of bug boxes, magnifiers and a sweeping net, as well as

Everyone had a basic map to follow and a picture list of bugs to find.

sweeping net, as wen as to enjoy the fabulous setting of Porthkerry. The sun shone, chil-dren played, and everyone took time out to appreciate how wonderful it is to be able to explore ancient woodland, follow the pathway under the viaduct, run through the mead-ow, and watch the

waves hit Barry's peb-

A massive 'diolch' goes to the 36 families who attended, and to all who care for and main-tain the park. LD tain the park.



Porthkerry climbing. be in order.

## **Nell's Point Coastwatch** passes the scrutiny test

ONE morning recently members of the National Barry Island. including the man-agement and training team, came under scrutiny.

The day began with the two on-duty watchkeepers opening the station as usual, but the difference was that there were two assessors from the NCI declared facility team plus two members from the Maritime Coastguard

Agency at Swansea.

The purpose of their risit was to assess if the station and its Watchkeepers were up to the standard required by the authorities to become a declared facility.

This would mean that NCI Nell's Point would become a recognised member of the search and rescue organisation.
The assessors' first task

was to check that the station, equipment, records and practices were up to the desired standard. All these items were found to

they had received since

joining NCI.

The final stage of the morning was a simulated exercise which was set up to check the ability of the assesssy Watchkeepers in an emergency situation.

The same format was repeated by two different Watchkeepers after lunch.

After their personal interviews and simulated interviews and simulated success in reaching exercise, the assessment team retired to make their PETER decision on the granting

Next was the turn of of DFS.
the Watchkeepers. They At the debrief the stawere interviewed by the tion management were head assessor to judge the told they had passed the Coastwatch station at Nell's Point, head assessor to judge the level of their knowledge assessment and that a which in turn gave an recommendation would indication of the training be made to the chief coastguard that NCI Nell's point be granted 'Declared Facility

The day following the assessment, NCI chairman Jon Gifford visited the station to congratulate Nell's Point manager Captain Clive Wilton, the management team and all the Watchkeepers on their

WOOLLACOTT



ABOVE: NCI chairman Jon Gifford presenting the Declared Facility Award to Captain Clive Wilton.

The Porthkerry parachute.

## Barry pupils hear why Zimbabwe cricket ace wore a black armband



ABOVE:

Henry Olonga and Barry Comprehensive's young cricketers. PHŌTOGRAPH by CALUMN NĚWMAN

first black cricketer

er to represent his

country, visited the

2003 by wearing a

black armband in a

cricket World Cup

match - to protest

Zimbabwe's govern-

'No delay, act today'

on flooding blackspot -VALE COUNCIL IS URGED

structure represent a sig-

nificant flooding hazard

He welcomed news

remove the bridge deck

and relocate the junction

people have been hoping

that the Vale Council

further to the west. He added: "Local

for several years for a

caused by the Cross Common Road Bridge

"I can confirm that

the Vale Council have

structure.

solution to the flooding

will seek funding to

at times of heavy rain-

school and explained

Year-7 pupils at Barry Comprehensive School were fascinated to hear Zimbabwean international cricketer Henry Olonga outline his experiences in his native coun-

Henry, who was the ment, led by Robert

THE Vale Council

has been urged to

ty" to removing a

flooding blackspot

at the entrance to

Plaid AM Chris Franks, who lives in the

village, said: "The coun-

cil is committed to seek-

ing funding to deal with the Cross Common Road

"The area around the

Bridge which has been identified as a major

cause of flooding

upstream.

Dinas Powys.

give "urgent priori-

Mugabe.

and the voungest play-This act led to a warrant issued for his arrest on charges of treason (which carries how he achieved world-wide recognition in the death penalty in Zimbabwe) and forced him to retire from international cricket and temporarily go into hiding. against the policies of

He is also remembered for his bowling figures of 6 for 19

urgent action, rather than

Dinas Powys Plaid

Williams, has been cam-

paigning on flooding

issues for the past ten

for a solution to this

problem ever since I

became a councillor.

"For the first time.

Plaid has now received

promise from the Vale of Glamorgan Council that

they will take action.
"We will be making

sure that the Vale

years.
"I have been looking

a long wait."

Councillor, Chris

against England in a one-day international, which were the best for any Zimbabwean.

Henry spent the morning coaching play ers from the school, who one day would love to emulate his suc-

ADHD support
VALE ADHD Support
VALE ADHD Support
Group will hold a meeting at 6pm, on
Wednesday, May 27, in
the lounge at the
Glenbrook Inn, Barry, All
parents and carers of
children with ADHD welcome.

come.
For further informa-

## NEW PRESIDENT OF VALE SHOW CHOSEN

FOLLOWING its recent annual general meeting at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, the Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Society revealed that Mrs Mary Thomas of Dros Y Mor Farm is its show president for 2009.

She was nominated by Robert Thomas, who has known her since school days. He said that the socie-ty owed her a great deal as she had been involved with the society since his father was secretary.

She has been secretary and involved in the organisation of the reception and president's lunch for many years.

has been quite a family affair for Mary, as her late husband, Mervyn, was also president and her daughter, Jane, is the treasurer of the society.

Keith Gibson, who has worked on the show field for over 10 years, was nominated as vice-president, along with the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, and the Mayor of the Vale.

The organisers are hoping that the sun will shine on this year's show on August 19. Preparation is well under way, with schedules due to be printed in



Mary Thomas receiving the badge of office from outgoing president John Arnott

the next couple of weeks.

Should anyone be interested in sponsorship opportunities or trade space, contact the show secretary on 01446 710099, or email vale.show@btin-

## Dream wedding in St Lucia for Barry couple Katy and Chris

AFTER 10 happy years together, Barry couple Katy Kear and Chris Meredith, (originally from Aberdare), had their dream wedding in the flawless Caribbean setting of Almond Smugglers Cove in St Lucia.

The bride's parents, Judy and David Kear

Meredith, were there to celebrate the special day with Katy and Chris, along with friends Louise Iles and Martin Thomas and Katy's bridesmaids Alex Gillam and Katy Meredith.

The happy couple celebrated their reception on their return in the Fat Cat Café Bar in Cardiff with 110 guests, and were entertained by the Porthcawl Male Voice Choir, who set the tone for a perfect evening.

RIGHT: The happy couple celebrate in the sun.



## tion on the group, call Vickey on 01446 421738. Police hunt

for arsonists

POLICE in Penarth started deliberately and are probing an we are appealing to any-arson attack at one who may have seen Coleridge Avenue, someone acting suspiwhen a car was set ciously on Coleridge Monday, May 4. on fire between Avenue to come forward

spokesperson reported that an Audi A6 was deliberately set alight. Inside the vehicle were property and personal belongings of the owner's brother, who had recently passed away. All destroved.

A full investigation has been launched and police have carried out house-to-house enquiries and forensic searches of the scene.

Penarth Neighbourhood Acting Inspector Steve Trigg, commented:

We have reasons to believe that this fire was

Contact Barry CID on 01446 731606, or free and in confidence via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

**Cwm Talwg Community Centre Barry** ANNUAL

GENERAI **MEETING** to be held

**MONDAY, MAY 18** 6.30 pm

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Mrs M Williams (Llandeilo)



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PAST JEWSONS, STRAIGHT ACROSS NEXT ROUNDABOUT, LEFT AT GREENBANKS CARE GROUP

## FROM PENALLTA COLLIERY TO **PANORAMIC**

mine in the Rhymney Valley, Penallta Colliery near Ystrad finally closed down in 1992.

At the peak of its production it employed 3,000-men from various local communities, and at one time held the European record for coal production, so its closure left a deep scar, not only on the community but on the economy and social aspects of the area.

In 1996, the idea for the transformation of the former coal pit was put forward by the local authority, and as a result, Parc Penallta was formed after 180 hectares of land was transformed into a community park.

Fight walkers joined their leaders, Janet and John at Parc Penallta, where there are plenty of way-marked trails in the Rhymney Valley, before the group headed westpark to explore, and a visit to Sultan – the pit pony is not to be missed.

Sprawled across the hillside, 200 metres in length and 15 metres high, this is the United Kingdom's largest earth sculpture.
A short walk towards

the viewing point led the group past some poems about mining, and sculp-tures designed by chil-dren, and although the weather was overcast, it remained dry and spring flowers were in abundance on the banks.

These included wild violets, celandines, Jack by the Hedge (or garlic mustard) and Dove'sfoot Cranesbill, a mem-ber of the geranium fam-

A steady climb led them to Mynydd Eglwysilan with panoramic views over

ABOVE: The ramblers at Parc Penallta.

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the Brecon Beacons and wards and stopped for

A mountain track led them to the Llanfabon Inn, where they joined the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk to reach Nelson and the return back to Parc Penallta.

URBAN WALK

Six walkers met leader Harry Boudier outside Cardiff Central railway station, for a mid-week urban walk that saw them walking alongside the docks feeder canal: and the State East Dock to County Hall on Atlantic Wharf that was opened

Walking through Red Dragon, the large leisure, entertainment and dining centre, they rejoined the waterside at Scott Harbour.

Reaching Britannia Quay, the lightship

berthed in the Roath Basin was too much temptation to pass and they were beckoned in for late elevenses.

Paying attention to public art works such as Brian Fell's Merchant Navy War Memorial and his wall hangings depicting the cargoes from John Masefield's poem 'Cargoes', the group left Mermaid Quay and went through the Wetlands reserve under the Butetown link bridge and into Hamadryad

All that was left was to cross Clarence Road Bridge above the River Taff and return to Wood Street, via the Taff Embankment pathway

On May 16, you are invited to catch a train at 9.35am from Cardiff Central arriving at 10.32am at Ebbw Vale station before the 11mile linear walk (with a steep start, then easy walking) back to Newbridge. Please note the change of leader and contact Keith Donovan on 01495 223 927.

On May 21, the sec-ond summer evening walk will leave Wenvoe War Memorial at 7pm for a 4-mile easy/mod walk at Wenvoe and Michaelston; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278. There are no official stops en route, but you may wish to bring a drink with you.

01446 730884

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks.

Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt then please contact the walk leader for advice. For other groups' walk log onto

w.ramblers.org.uk Rucksack badges, programmes and mem-bership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

## Plaid AM calls for Vale spending on the youth services

PLAID Cymru regional AM economic times, I accept local authori-Chris Franks has urged the ties, like everyone else, are facing hard Vale council to up their spending on youth services in "these difficult economic times".

"However, I really think the Vale council needs to be looking to increase difficult economic times".

He made his appeal after figures obtained by Chris Franks revealed that the Tory controlled council spent just £12.51 per head of its multi-million pound education budget on youth services in 2007-08 against a Welsh average of £16.73. It represented 1.7 per cent of the education budget against a Welsh average of 2.1 per cent. to fin Mr Franks said: "In these difficult Vale"

as youth clubs and youth workers.
"The Vale council has never given youth services a high priority. Large areas of Barry, Penarth and Dinas Powys are lacking in youth clubs and facilities. Similar size councils invest twice as much as the Vale. Neighbouring local authorities are able find significantly more than the

'Scoop the poop'

DURING a 'scoop

by the Vale free dog mess bags were handed out.

officer Denny White said: "Plenty of locals stopped to talk and show their support – both dog owners and

non dog owners.

"Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act in a public place then

or not having the means to clean it up, do not count as defences under the regulations."

### Vale man takes over the chair

VALE Council waste management agenda; raising the profile of er for waste management and cleansreducing their ecologic
ing, Clifford Parish, footprint, and moving
has been appointed

children for the cologic
discovery for the cologic
ing, Clifford Parish, footprint, and moving
has been appointed chairman of the Chartered Institution of the Wastes Management (CIWM) Cymru Wales Centre.

He commented: "I hope to continue to drive forward the sustainable

waste managers and public and private bodies in able practices"



## bags handed out by Vale Council

the poop' promotion day organised Council's enforcement team, 10,000

Senior enforcement

1996, if your dog fouls you must clean up the "Not being aware,

#### Road) and Paget Road place. Victorian Fayre,

Dock View Road at its junction with Thompson Street,

Barry – ongoing tempo-rary traffic signals, to allow construction work on the adjacent foot-bridge over the railway line.
It is expected that

these signals will remain in place until June 2009. B4267 Penlan Road. Llandough - intermittent temporary traffic signals in use (off peak only) to allow water mains refurbishment.

ADVANCE NOTICE Ty Hafan Run, Barry Island, Sunday, May 31 Station Approach Road (between Breaksea Drive and Friars Road), Friars Road (between Station Approach and Paget

craft

(between the un-named road that leads to the sports ground and its ul-d-sac end) will be closed to vehicles between 7.30am-1pm to allow the event to take

Road works report

Saturday, June 20 various roads in Llantwit Major town centre will be closed between 8am-6pm to allow the event to take place.

## Cases in the Magistrates Court

Close, breath. Llantwit She Caer Mead Boverton,

Major, admitted drink driving and failing to stop after an accident in which another vehicle was damaged on April

Magistrates heard that

polint

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fice point

ANN a sample test showed 81 T H O M A S - microgrammes of alco-LLEWELLYN (40) of hol in 100 millilitres of

She was fined £325 and banned from driving

three months

admitted possessing heroin, a Class A drug, in Cardiff on March 26.

She also admitted fail-ing twice to surrender to the court at the appointed time. She was sent to prison for two months because of her disregard for court orders, and failure to comply with a

MICHAEL LEE BUL-MICHAEL LEE BUL-LOCK (19) of North Walk, Barry, admitted damaging someone's mobile phone on March

He was fined £65, told to pay the victim £50 in compensation and told to pav £60 prosecution

SPENCER JAMES assault on a woman on March 11, and criminal

damage on the same date. 21.

He was given a community order and must the drug complete 150 hours of destroyed.

unpaid work within the next 12 months. Magistrates ordered

him to pay £150 compensation to the victim and £60 in prosecution costs.
WILLIAM HANTON for 18 months.

If a rehabilitation (course is completed, the ban can be reduced by four packets of sliced four packets of sliced chicken, a bottle of creme bath, a bottle of three monus.

REBECCA JACQUECreme bath, a bottle of
Chardonnay, a can of
Kipling Close, Penarth,
Rightguard and six pairs
Rightguard and six pairs of women's trainer socks from Tesco store in Penarth.

Due to repeated offending, magistrates sent him to prison for

(37) o. Close, GERARD CLOGG Malborough Cadoxton, Barry, admitted stealing gloves and telecom equipment from a car in the town on November 26 last year.

He was given a two-week prison sentence suspended for 12 months.

Magistrates ordered £100 in compensation for the victim.

CHRISTOPHER

CHARLES DOCHER-TY (47) of Elizabeth BROWN (25) of Barry TY (47) of Elizabeth Road, Barry, admitted an Avenue, Barry, admitted possession of cannabis, a Class B drug, on March

> He was fined £50 and drugs



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## 10 years on - a first hand record of how Wales can benefit from devolution

EN years of action speaks louder than words" our First Minister, Rhodri Morgan AM said in his interviews to review the impact of 10 years of devolution in Wales.

I have also been reflecting on my decade of serving the Vale of Glamorgan as your Assembly Member.

During the past 10 ears since the election in May 1999 I have written a column for The GEM every fortnight, so there is quite a history to review!

review!
The First Minister has said that the Welsh
Assembly Government
"has earned its stripes in an eventful first decade of devolution – and Wales is a better country as a result"

He has highlighted free prescriptions, pri-mary school breakfasts and free swimming as "made in Wales" initiatives which make a real difference to people's everyday lives. When I was asked

recently to name major achievements of the past 10 years, I drew atten-



(Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills)

tion to the fact that we have appointed the UK's first Children's Commissioner and our hugely successful concessionary travel scheme - the free bus pass for the over 60s, disabled

people and their carers.
The latest figures on bus passes taken up in the Vale show that the number of passes given out to eligible passengers has increased from 10,000 to 23,062 since the scheme was introduced in April 2002.

Linked to the 'trans port' theme, there is little doubt that the £17million plus investment in opening up the Vale of

Glamorgan rail-way line with that past year in Wales and more to come, but most importantly our youngest children are two new stations at Rhoose and Llantwit Major, has had positive benefits in my constituency, with excellent passenger take-up – young peo-

ple, commuters.

families, senior

use of the serv-

The 'learner

travel measure',

one of our new

Campaign' with more opportunities to shape

important objectives.

'Safe Routes to school' investments and

there have been a number of successful

Securing extra fund-

ing its worth, with over 2,000 extra classroom

schemes in the Vale.

benefiting.
Targeting investment to the most disadvantaged children and fami-lies in Wales has also provided an important boost in Gibbonsdown with the extra health visiting, parenting support citizens, as well and free child care for as visitors to the Vale making full two year olds.

There are other devel-

opments and invest-ments, such as £3million plus of Assembly Government money to clear the Butlins site.

fund Barry Island Coastal Seawatch centre, re-develop Holton Road and Barry Dock station and Thompson Street footbridge.
The little wins are

also important, such as the Assembly funding to re-open the Clive Road Steps at Barry Island as a major breakthrough for local community action.
With the Arts Council

of Wales holding their creative awards event and annual conference at the Barry Memorial Hall last month, arts and culture policies have been important.

Our funding of the 'Library for Wales' collection of classics by Welsh authors, edited by Professor Dai Smith is widely acknowledged, as is the support for the 'Beyond the Border Story Telling Festival'

The 2008 National Year of Reading with Welsh Assembly funding for Barry as a 'reading town' has helped us make full use of our splendid new library and Arts Central.

Weaving the national and local developments over 10 years provides an important opportunity to reflect on the challenges and achievements of ten years of devolu-

Our contribution to lead Wales out of recession is the greatest test of this decade and our economic summits are bearing fruit with our support for businesses and those who have been

hit hardest by the global

But there is no question about the future there is much more to

We are on an important journey in meeting the needs of our people, our communities and our economy in Wales.

VALE AM'S SURGERY
VALE of Glamorgan Assembly Member, Jane
Hutt, will be holding a constituency surgery on
Saturday, May 16, between 10am-11am, at St
Brides Major Church Hall, Southerndown Road,
St Brides Major; and between 11.30am-12noon at
Wick Village Hall. No appointments are necessary.



## Operation Synergy carried out in the Vale

THE first major exercise to be launched since the merger of the Vale and Bridgend police divisions saw 39 arrests made across the new 'super division' in a two-day operation from April

30-May 1. Under the code name Operation Synergy, 100 officers carried out a number of tasks, ranging from executing warrants to high visibility patrols across the region and targeted outstanding sus-pects and wanted offend-

On Wednesday, April 29, police in the Vale carried out three drugs warrants, making two arrests for alleged possession of Class A drugs.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams also carried out high visibility public reassurance patrols. During the day, eight checks were completed to ensure that

with their bail conditions. There was one breach reported which

resulted in an arrest.
There were 12 further arrests made in the Vale during the first day of the operation. These were for a variety of offences, ranging from providing a positive breath test, to breach of the peace, thefts, burgla-ries and drugs offences.

During the second day of the operation, the emphasis was on public reassurance, with increased patrols across the whole of the divi-

In the Vale, one vehicle was seized for no insurance, 100 leaflets were delivered by NPT officers in areas where auto-crime has been particularly high, and speed checks were also carried out which resulted in two fixed penalty notices for speeding being issued.

In tandem with this operation, police in the Vale also mounted a truancy exercise -

Operation Wildchild, when 10 'stop and account forms' were completed. Four of those stopped were truants. They were returned to their schools and anti social behaviour referrals were issued. A further ASB referral was issued the following day

Acting Chief Inspector Jim Hall, who led the operation with Acting Chief Inspector Jay Winslade-Gregory, said: "Operation Synergy is the first of many such initiatives which will be carried out by officers from across the new division.

"As well as developing a united team across the division, we will be focused on making the area an unwelcome place for criminals and offenders to operate.

They will always have to look over their shoulder as we become increasingly vigilant to ensure we keep the Vale (and Bridgend) a safe place for people to live, work and visit."

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## South Wales farmers show their competitive streak

YOUNG farmers from south Wales descended on Pencoed College for a competition day on Saturday.

Among the contests were best floral display, finest cook, best photographer, best gardener, best construction of a chicken coop, best singer, and a fancy dress section – 'one dame and her dog'!

Photos by MANDY THOMAS (Available for purchase, telephone 07974 518347) www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk





































## St Athan Golf Club duo celebrate two holes-in-one!

RAF St Athan Golf
Club is well into its
golfing season and
the Sunday men's
competitions are
proving once again late Stan and Brian and
to be tremendously
popular.

RAF St Athan Golf
glasses could be refilled
by managing to get the
second 'hole-in-one'
hole-in-one'
All players on the day
would like to congratulook forward to many
more 'holes-in-one'!
Latest results: Abril Dts.

RAF St Athan Golf
glasses could be refilled
(Pairwood Park
(OCB); 2nd
(OCB); 2nd R
Davidge/BM Lacey 61.
Douglas Bader
Hurry 39 pts (OCB); 2nd
S Hopkins/S Hopkins 39 popular.

These competitions are done on a weekly draw basis and any junior with a handicap of 18 or under also has the privilege of competing.

ege of competing.

May 3 saw the members playing the monthly medal and the 170-yard 6th hole was the most popular on the day for

two of the players.
Stan Morris had his first ever 'hole-in-one' with a 4 iron, guarantee-ing the traditional free

ing the traditional free drink in the clubbouse for fellow competitors. RAF St Athan is a very sociable club and the gents particularly enjoy their ale! Brian Asbury ensured that

more 'holes-in-one'!
Latest results: April
monthly medal/Dan
Archer Qualifier: 1st GW Hughes 42 pts; 2nd
JWG Morgan 64 net; 2nd S Thomas 41 pts; 3rd M
P Rees 69 net; 3rd SP
Dawes 70 net.
Welsh Team Qualifier:
Let N Waters 45

1st N Waters 45 pts C Bacon 70 net; 3rd GD (OCB); 2nd SW Morris Thomas 71 pts. 45 pts; 3rd JWG Morgan 38 pts (OCB).



LEFT: The drinks were on Stan and Brian!

## ALTERNATIVE SEVERN BARRAGE SCHEME COULD OVERCOME LOCAL OBJECTIONS

AN alternative Severn Barrage is being put forward – one that will not involve any road and railway construction on either side of the Bristol Channel.

Although this project is not currently among the options being looked at by the Assembly, the man behind the plan says that he already has serious financial institutions interested in backing it, and can step in if politicians shy away from the pro-posed Severn Barrage.

Gareth Woodham, of the Severn Lake Company

Limited, envisages a concrete causeway, 12.2 km long from Lavernock Point (Fort Road) in Wales to Brean Down (National Trust) in Somerset,

The existing proposals are for a concrete wall carrying turbines with a road and railway above. This means that at Sully, and on the other side of the Channel, there would be huge infrastructure projects that would need to be built.

Mr Woodham told The GEM: "The Severn Lake Causeway does not propose to run ashore at either side. It will be fully autonomous in every utility and will not have a roadway between Wales and England.

The proposal goes further in providing a whole ribbon development within the lake that it will cre-

This scheme envisages the construction of tur-bine galleries holding 192 turbines that will capture the tide on ebb and on flow, computer-controlled for tidal and lake height control, all designed to generate the maximum energy produc-

Because electricity would be generated on both ebb and flow, the power output would be higher.

Mr Woodham says that the minimum life design

#### by PHILIP IRWIN

will be 100 years. The ambitious project includes fish passes with viewing points, and underground marine life viewing cafes.

The Causeway will also contain within its width two free-flow shipping channels able to sustain 250,000 dwt shipping. These locks will allow the unhindered passage of shipping at all available

To provide a clear channel for commercial shipping and to control leisure craft, islands would be moored in place, to be used as to their market needs and value.

Mr Woodham says that many extra features can be added to the causeway. He said: "Provision can be made for the addition of underground cellars that would contain organic waste.
"Made of reinforced concrete, these cellars will

hold approximately 90,000 tons (each) of roboti-cally controlled organic waste. These will provide methane gas to be burned to provide an extra electricity supply source."

With local public opposition a major factor

when it comes to siting waste treatment works, Mr Woodham sees this as a green option that would add to the overall environmental benefits of the scheme.

The decomposed waste can be pelleted, and the cellars refilled. Mr Woodham claims it is possible that the facility can provide the "whole of the organic waste fill site requirement for south Wales and the south-west, in a continuing process.

Another 'green' spin-off would see off-shore wind farms close to the causeway, well away from land-based objectors, with the wind farms acting as a wind-break for the causeway.

He said: "The causeway grid provides a conven-

ient and cost effective conduit for such a scheme, and would be managed by the Severn Lake Company

There would be a tourism spin-off too, with four marinas created, two along each shoreline. These would provide safe berthing for boats, yachts and

water sports using the lake.

The Severn Lake Company would also provide a lifeboat station.

Further options based around the causeway include "private islands" to be used as luxury liv-ing accommodation, "sponsored islands" which can provide habitat for wildlife and birds, and fishing and diving islands with temporary accommo-

Mr Woodham said: "The company would look to promote tourism and provide free electricity and / or gas to all lake transport suitably equipped. (This would include Cardiff Bay, Newport, Gloucester, Bristol, Portishead and Weston-Super-

The Causeway would contain ports on both sections to initially deal with construction and latterly to accept waste and the utility and service of the

causeway itself.

The causeway would have its own water supply through its own desalination plant.

The extremities of the causeway, with allowances for fish passes would be designed land-scaped in consultation with the local authorities in Wales and the National Trust in Somerset.

Mr Woodham said: "The building of the cause-way would provide a huge new environment more

suited to life on a live lake.
"The French at Le Rance, and with hydro schemes we have looked at in Avignon, and others, have led the way and will provide copy-cat systems of fish pass, level control and upper erosion

"The Severn Lake Company intend to manage thelLake to encourage sustainable dish stocks and varied aquatic life, and will look to work with the RSPB to provide some of the compensatory habitat described as a condition by the Sustainable Development Commission.'

In the planning process, the Severn Lake Company will argue that the provision of renew-

ole power is in the national interest.

Mr Woodham insisted that the actual building of the causeway described has no particular engineering hurdles. It is likely that in the design, certain sections can be installed and working before oth-

He added that exact details of this are subject to commercial confidentiality. He said that it as estimated that between four and six yards in the UK and Netherlands could build the cellars.

Employment at its height could be some 30,000, over some five to seven years.

Mr Woodham admitted: "The most difficult part of the project is the politics and the planning and consent procedures.

"With the introduction of this 'whole' develop-

ment and given the increases in the returns for energy, and waste disposal, the viability of the project will be shown to be attractive to medium and long term investors'

Although the project will save money by doing away with the need for massive construction projects at Sully and Brean Down, the extra afeatures associated with this scheme means that it will not be any cheaper than the existing Severn Barrage

Further information on The Severn Lake project can be obtained from www.severnlake.co.uk

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THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan lottery draw number 565. ● £2000: 186021.

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Plaid

125317, 841639, 645967 128731, 110476, 236157 294018, 508229, 675151, 242850, 313227, 130674, 199912, 249486, 283045, 220475, 651391, 512580, 400128, 229328, 187488, 259530, 106751, 178703,

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

291882, 265674, 599540, 488877, 441821. For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

## Ty Hafan lottery ROW, ROW, ROW, for the Ty Dyfan residential home



MEMBERS from Barry College's work based training agency the Vale of Glamorgan Training Association (VGTA) raised more than £500 for Tv Dyfan residential home in a sponsored row.

A spokesman report-ed: "The VGTA Prince's Trust team rowed for five hours on rowing machines at Barry leisure centre and covered 67,600 metres - the equivalent of rowing from Dover to Calais and back again.

"They raised slightly more than £500, which was used to take resiout bowling, for a pub lunch and a trip to St Fagans National History Museum. The team also spent two days in the centre entertaining residents with bingo, quizzes and singalongs

The charity event was organised as part of the Prince's Trust

'Team Challenge' - one of a series of events during the 12 week team programme deliv-ered in the Vale by VGTA, which also includes a week's residential course where learners get involved in various outdoor pursuits such as rock climbing, coasteering and abseil-

#### CAN YOU HELP BOW OR PATCH TO FIND A NEW CARING HOME?

The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust to find caring new owners for animals at its Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

#### Greener, healthier lifestyle

806878

BRYNMOR EVANS from the Bridgend Veggie Info Centre will be available at SUSSED, 92 John Street, Porthcawl, from 2pm-4pm, on May 18; 3pm-5pm, May 19 and 10am-12noon on May 22, to talk to people interested in greener, healthier lifestyle.

SUSSED will be offering 10 per cent off all Vegetarian Society and Vegan Society-approved products. Free vegetarian recipes will also be available.

'Cuppa with a copper'

PENCOED Neighbourhood Policing Team offer a 'cuppa with a copper at Pencoed Welfare Hall, 1pm-3pm, on Tuesday, June 1. All welcome.

CHRIS FRANKS AM

Plaid Cymru Assembly Member

Central Wales Central

**ADVICE SURGERY** 

WHEN: Friday 15th May

WHERE: Murchfield Community Centre

Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys

TIME: 4.00pm—5.00pm

ABOVE: The Prince's Trust Team rowing at Barry Leisure Centre and taking Ty Dyfan residents to St Fagans for a day out.

TAX HELP THE Inland Revenue tax help desks will be at Healthy Eating Shop, Age Concern, Holton Road, Barry (10am-12pm) and Room 2 ground floor, Council Offices, West House, Penarth (1pm-3pm) on May 21.

For further informa-tion contact Julie John, Cardiff Tax Enquiry Ty-Glas, Centre Llanishen, Cardiff, CF14 5FN on 02920 326506 (fax 02920 689133).

THIS WEEK: Bow and Patch. Bow is an eight-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier. He is a really sweet dog with a lovely nature, who sadly found himself

with us after his owner passed away.
"He enjoys his walks

and having a run in the field before going back and chilling out in his comfy bed! "He's housetrained

and good on the lead and is very friendly and playful. He is suitable with children aged six years and over. He's never lived with another dog, so is best suited as the only dog in the home."

If you would like more

information on or any of the Patch



ABOVE: "I'm Bow"

other dogs who are look omer aogs wno are took ing for a good home, you can visit the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend or tele-phone 01656 725219. (Bow and some of his friends are on the web-

PATCH is a sweet little lad, who can be a little worried and sensitive times. He will benefit from

further socialising to increase his confidence, because once he comes out of himself he's a lot of fun and enjoys running around the field with his canine friends.

He's a young dog, so he will need plenty of exercise to prevent him from getting bored and he will enjoy some basic

training.

He's had an unsettled life so far and will thank someone who can welcome him into a home. and give him time to settle in

site at He'll suit someone www.dogstrust.org.uk, who has owned terriers



ABOVE: 'Sweet' Patch is the sensitive type.

before. He can live with children aged eight years and over. We don't know what he's like around cats but he gets on well with other dogs!

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#### THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

## Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters should include an address and contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

## 'Council standards have reached rock bottom'

Major Town Council in 1974 when the first mayor of the town was elected and in those days, despite many members having a political allegiance, members took their turn to receive the honour of being elected mayor for the town.

All members recognised a respect for each other and supported the member whose turn it vas to be elected.

Alas, this is a distant memory,

for the standards of Llantwit Major Town Council have now reached rock bottom, as the actions taken at last week's annual meeting demonstrated.

The Tory Party of today leaves much to be desired as they lack the standards of those of years ago. Today, they are political

fanatics and carry little respect for others.

Unable to find a candidate from their own group, they decided to nominate Coun Russell Downe, a former member of the Labour Party, to be mayor of Llantwit Major once again, having been mayor in 2006/07.

Coun Ann Matthews has been the deputy mayor for the past year and should have been elected as mayor for this year. Coun Matthews carried out her duties as asked of her during the last

Last September, Coun Matthews was called upon to represent the council in a twinning visit to Le Pouliguen when the mayor, Coun Molly Lane was on holiday.

In addition to this, Coun

Matthews represented the mayor on other occasions when required to do so.

Of course, I have previous

experience of Tory tricks in the Vale of Glamorgan Council, and they have pulled this stunt before by pushing one of their own into the driving seat in front of the rightful person for the position of mavor.

Everyone, who wishes to receive the honour of being elected mayor should be given the opportunity, but not in the eyes of the Tories

I am sure the residents of Llantwit Major will respond to this. I certainly will. The general election is not far away and I am sure that Alun Cairns, the Tory candidate, will suffer as a result of the actions by those in Llantwit Major. Remember 2004, when the

Tories lost three seats in the Vale elections? Lightning does strike twice and I will see that it does. Coun Gwyn John,

Llantwit Major (See news story on page 1)

## GRATEFUL MY BARRY MILKMAT

HROUGH your newspaper, I would like to thank the Barry Milkmates breastfeeding support group for their help and support.

When I had my first son in 2005, I had no family in the area or friends with young children, so I went along to the group not knowing what to expect.

Over three years later, I am still very good friends with several women I met there.

The support of one's eers at this time of life is invaluable.

We helped each other through the highs and lows of feeding, teething, illnesses, injections, weaning, potty-training, tantrums and new babies.

I attended the breast-

feeding group again with my second baby and my elder son was

made very welcome too. There is a separate room with toddler toys for the older children to play

The volunteers who run the group are trained, but are also mums who breastfed. A lovely health-visitor also attends to give pro-fessional advice, and I found she always had time to listen and advise, even when the problem may seem triv-

New mums, and society in general, often underestimate the importance and the dif-ficulty of breastfeeding. It can be very tiring, awkward, painful and emotional

It is still slightly taboo to feed in public in this country, despite breastmilk being far superior to formula.

However, it is the best possible start you can give your baby and the bond that you form with your child is inim-

itable. Mothers who choose to breastfeed deserve to be applauded and encouraged, which is why the work of Barry Milkmates is so

The group meets every Thursday, between 1pm-3pm, at St David's Methodist church. (Name and address

## Enforce beach ban on dogs'

HERE has been a lot of publicity lately about dogs on Barry beaches; yes, it is a pity that dogs have to be banned from the beaches but do your readers understand why this has to be done?

It's not because of the dogs – it's the owners who should look to their own behaviour. I am a regular (responsible) dog owner, daily using Barry Island and Friar's Point

to exercise my dog. Not a day goes by

when I don't have to offer owners a bag to 'Pick it up', or tell peo-ple that the beach is banned for dogs. When asking, I am very polite and I try to use the utmost diplomacy. Many people accept the bags and do the job, but others are extremely rude

and abusive.

It's true it's not my responsibility, but where are the people who are responsible for enforcing the bans?

I read in your publication on May 7 a notice from the Vale Council reminding residents that dogs are banned from the beaches. Also that fines of £500 would be imposed if owners are aught allowing dogs on the beach.

This has been in oper-ation for a few years now, and I would respectfully ask just how many people have been fined under this

Also a fine of up to £1,000 is in operation for fouling of certain areas. How many have been fined?

Never mind the notice reminding people of the bans imposed – the time has come to enforce them. Come on council, let's have some action! Mrs DM Davies, Barry

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of network VEKA is the standard of quality and integrity that it sets for its members.

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## IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR GARDEN IS SECURE

TTH longer daylight hours and warmer weather, the Safer Vale Partnership is running a month long operation throughout May aimed at

reducing shed burglaries and advising the public on improving the security of their sheds and gardens.

Known as Operation Target, it has been backed by the Safer Vale Partnership which has provided 450 shed alarms which will be distributed to victims of shed burglaries.

Anyone who is unfortunate enough to become

the victim of a shed burglary will be visited by their local PCSO, who will be able to provide spe-

cific advice regarding preventing garden crime.

Coun Paul Church, chairman of the Safer Vale Partnership said: "The Safer Vale Partnership is committed to reducing crime and reducing the fear of crime. Operation Target has been put in place to help prevent the community from being a victim of

Vale of Glamorgan Crime Prevention officer, PC Dick Collins, said: "With lighter nights and the desire to be outside more, people start to enjoy new activities particularly in the garden without thought for any crime opportunities that they are creating.

"If someone can get into your garden easily without attracting suspicion, it gives them more time to steal from you. Are your fences and gates in good repair? Do you have security lighting? Do you leave things outside all year which could be

removed easily or used to break into your house? prevent easy carrying.

"Are there overgrown areas where someone could hide? Cut them back so you can see what's going on. Ideally, shrubs should be below one metre and trees cropped to a height of three metres in areas near buildings where people could other-

"Gravel on paths and driveways can alert you to someone approaching so intruders will not be so keen. Prickly plants and trellis can provide extra

protection from the intruder," said PC Collins

"Without realising it, you probably have a lot of valuable property in your sheds and outbuildings and you don't pay as much attention to security as you should Power as you should. Power tools, lawnmowers, cycles and golf clubs for example are all expensive

to replace and attractive to thieves "Shed doors are notoriously easy to get into, so

strengthen the door and frame if you can. Outside Secure them in position or fill with heavy gravel to door hinges should be secured with coach bolts or non-return screws. Use strong pad-bars and close shackle padlocks. Five lever mortise locks are the best on normal solid doors.
"You should also check windows. Is the glass

cracked but you haven't got round to replacing it? You could use Perspex or polycarbonate sheet if well fixed.

"Use a window lock on opening windows and a strong grille or heavy wire mesh. Consider using net curtains to deter casual viewing."

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Saron

wedding

PICTURED after their

wedding at Saron Chapel, Treoes on March 29, are Michael and Rhian Llewellyn. The couple afterwards

#### Chapel service A COMMUNION service will be held at Saron Chapel, Treoes, on Sunday, May 17 at

THE following items were discussed at the Llangan Community council meeting held on Monday, May 11: Treoes Hall –

Negotiations are continuing with the Vale Council over a new kitchen and better flooring in Treoes Community Hall.

Tennis courts – There

has not been the enthusi-asm envisaged for the proposed allotments at the former tennis courts, considering the charge would be 50p to £1 per week. There will be 10-12 allotments, which will cover the grass area.

Parking problem – Coun West asked whether the grass area adjoining the Treoes Community Hall could

Application No: Proposal:

Application No: Proposal:

Application No: Proposal:

Application No:

Application No:

Location:

Proposal:

Location:

Location:

Location: Conservation Area:

Location: Conservation Area:

Conservation Area:

Conservation Area:

Conservation Area:



## COMMUNITY

NEWS
TREOES, LLANGAN
& ST MARY HILL
Your local correspondent is
Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd",
Llangan. (01656) 860303

at a later date.

It was brought to reached.

councillors' notice that large branches have been reported the problem of placed across the walkway at the western end of their dogs and to the vil-lage well.

Problems reported

Problems reported by Coun Hall re Fferm Goch - There are prob-lems at the 'kissing gate' asbestos sheets have area situated close to the been dumped on Ruthin Llangan Community Hall.

Curbstones need attention and the road close to the telephone kiosk are in need of repair. Many trees in and around Fferm Goch also need attention.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND

**CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990** 

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

**Developments in Conservation Areas** 

with new name Zahins 70, Eastgate, Cowbridge Cowbridge with Llanblethian

Re-position hanging sign and install new shop name in aluminium profile letters (6 no) Re-naming business

Re-position hanging sign and install new shop name in aluminium profile letters (6 no)
70, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Cowbridge with Llanblethian

Extension to ground floor conservatory and construction of first floor external balcony above, construction of dormer roof and chimney breast to side

Installation of new and replacement velux windows 69, Plymouth Road, Penarth

The Coach House, Peterston Super Elv

2009/00432/ADV

2009/00433/LBC

2009/00438/FUL

Peterston-super-Ely

2009/00444/FUL

Sunday, May 17 at 3pm, conducted by Mr Alwyn Evans.

A warm welcome will be extended to everyone.

When there is a function tunately, it can take in the Far East. in the hall. News on this months before a satisfactory conclusion is Vale Council but, unfor- left for their honeymoon

pedestrians walking between the northern side of Fferm Goch and Treoes villages, preventside of Fferm Goch and
ing villagers' access to a
popular area for walking requested a footpath inside the hedge. This is something which is urgently needed.

Coun Thomas report-

Ruthin Chapel

THE remnant of a chapel seems to be deteriorating every month.

There has still been no

ttention.

All these problems the owner, or the Vale have been reported to the Council, on the likely outcome

## **BRIDGEND BRIDE WHO** WAS BEATING CANCER DIED FROM SUPERBUG

A GRIEVING Bridgend bridegroom has been awarded more than £100,000 compensation, after his young bride died in hospital from a deadly superbug.

Sian Ptolomey beat cancer – but fell victim to the C.difficile infection while being treated in a Cardiff hospi-

Just a few days before she died, Sian (25) was told she was winning her six-month battle against cancer – and was looking forward to a long and happy life.

However, her hus-band William saw her die just 17 months after their wedding day

from C.difficile. Newly-wed Sian was home in Bridgend diagnosed with treatable Hodgkin's Lymphoma and was admitted to hospital. She was winning her battle to overcome the illness, but was killed by the superbug believed to have been

picked up in hospital. Her heartbroken father Terry Pickett, of Brackla, said: "They were looking forward to starting a family together. When she died we were in total shock because it was all so sudden.

"One minute everything was hunky-dory, with a specialist saying she had virtually beaten cancer - the next she was dead."

Sian's family claimed the hospital where she was being treated for cancer failed to investigate after she complained of the symptoms of C.difficile.

After an inquiry, the Velindre NHS Hospital Trust in Cardiff has paid a six-figure compensation sum to Sian's husband in an out-of-court settlement.

Prison administrative manager Sian was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma in December 2005, but was told there was an 85 per cent chance of a

She made the 20mile journey to

Velindre from her every two weeks for chemotherapy treatment. When she com-

plained of a swollen back, vomiting and diarrhoea a few weeks before she died, she was told they were side effects of the cancer treatment.

But less than a week

after being told that her cancer sessions were succeeding in beating the disease, she was admitted to her local hospital seriously

Terry (48), said: "From being told she had virtually beaten cancer and everything was looking rosy, we were now being told she had no chance of surviving the night.

"She died 26 hours after being admitted, with me and her husband holding her

Terry said a doctor at Bridgend's Princess of Wales Hospital told them they suspected clostridium difficile. which led to a ruptured bowel and severe blood poisoning.

"The doctor said if she had been treated earlier, she would still be alive today", he stated.

The primary cause ed as septic shock (clostridium difficile). Velindre Hospital launched an investigation and sent their findings to Sian's family, admitting failings in relation to identify ing her symptoms..

Sian's butcher hus-band, William (34), is still too upset to talk about the tragedy, but Terry said: "I don't want Sian to have died in vain. I don't want this to happen to any other young person, or go through the agony we have endured.

Velindre NHS Trust have apologised to Sian's family – but refused to talk about the tragedy because of "patient confidentiali-

Chief executive Allison Williams said: "Staff work extremely hard to ensure that good infection control procedures are in place to protect patients.
"We are committed

to taking all possible precautions to protect our patients from infection.

"However, in the small number of occa-sions where they do occur, we routinely carry out a thorough investigation, apologise to patients and their families as appropriate.

"And we ensure that we learn from the circumstances to minimise the risk of them happening again'

#### **COMMUNITY NEWS** ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

NOT just spring lambs but the stork, too, has been busy – bringing great joy to grandparents in the village!

ABOVE:

The happy couple

Robert and Maureen Carveth are pleased to welcome baby grand-daughter, Martha; and Howard and Marian Lewis a baby granddaughter, Seren, this week. All are doing well. THE Ladies Thursday Club held their annual general meeting on May 7 and it is sad that secretary Lyn is leaving the village for pastures new, leaving a vacancy. Chairperson Lilian

will take over for another year, as will treasurer Valerie. All have served the club well over the

The club meets in the primary school every Thursday during term time. New members are welcome.

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Wines, Beers & Spirits

available from 11am til late

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every Friday & Saturday

(booking advisable)

THE GREAT

AMERICAN BREAKFAST

served from 9.00 am onwards

Fresh Italian Coffees

with Coffee & Cakes deals.

Lovely selection of Lunches & Snacks served daily.

CONGRATULA-TIONS to Sheilah Lewis, incoming chairperson of Ewenny Community Council, who will be attending the Buckingham Palace garden party. Husband Tony is a

member of Ogmore ward of the St Brides Major community

A PLEASANT afternoon was spent when Ogmore-by-Sea resi-dents met at the Water Mill to start off the new session with a quiz.

It was good to welcome Peggy Oaks back after her recent stay in

hospital. THE Wick Horticulture Society met on May 8 at the Wick Hall to discuss schedules for the forth-coming 41st show to be held on Saturday,

CAFE

## of death on Sian's death certificate is list-

OF PUBLIC PATH CREATION ORDER 2009 HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 SECTION 26 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION & COMING INTO OPERATION

**PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO. 74 BARRY** 

On the 6th day of May 2009 the Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above named Order made under section 26 of the Highways Act

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to create a footpath as set out in the schedule below.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT between 9:00am and 4:00pm on weekdays from 14 May 2009 until 25 June 2009. Copies of the Order may be bought here at a price of £3.50.

The Order will come into operation on 6 May 2009, but if any person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity or that of any provision contained in the Order, or on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he of she, pursuant to paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within six weeks from 14 May 2009 on which the Notice is first published make an application to the High Court.

#### **SCHEDULE**

Description of site of new footpath

Commences at ST 0998 6674 at the northern end of the road at Maes y Coed and proceeds north north westwards through Birch Grove Wood for 52 metres to terminate at its junction with Public Footpath No. 62 Barry at ST 0997 6679 approximately 5 metres west of the junction of Nos.62 and 63 Barry.

Part 2 Limitations and Conditions

DATED this 14th day of May 2009

Peter H Evans Director of Legal Public Protection and Housing Services Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan

### 2009/00447/FUL Proposed detached garage 9, Clement Place, Barry Barry (Marine)

**Listed Building Consent** 

2009/00433/LBC Re-position hanging sign and install new shop name in aluminium profile letters (6 no) Application No: Proposal:

70, Eastgate, Cowbridge

Listed Building:

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk.

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER, 1995

#### Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest

Application No: Proposal:

2009/00449/FUL

2009/00449/FUL
Temporary five year planning permission for the relocation of 4 School of Technical Training within MoD St. Athan. Involving the use of existing buildings, the erection of 10 new temporary modular buildings, the extension to an existing building, the construction of a Multiple Use Games Area, and the construction of additional associated parking areas and associated

ancillary works
4 School of Technical Training, MoD St. Athan
(East Camp), St. Athan Location:

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 14 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk.

Dated: 14th May, 2009

Rob Thomas

Head of Planning and Transportation

Open 9 am til late Mon-Sat 86 High Street, Barry The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT Tel. 01446 742124



## Local Newspaper Wee

11-17 May 2009

building stronger communities

## To our readers and advertisers

A message from our proprietor, Sir Ray Tindle CBE

he GEM is still family-owned and is still run independently by local staff. After 26 years of existence that is something of which we are quite proud.

The management and staff are the very best. It is their wish to serve you, our readers and advertisers, by publishing the finest possible paper each week.

They certainly try to do so. Do tell us if we can improve the paper in any way. We'll happily consider any possibilities you may put for-

Thank you, everyone of you, for using The GEM. We value your support.



ABOVE: Sir Ray Tindle, CBE

## VALE OF GLAMORGAN SHOW

Wednesday 19th August 2009 Fonmon Castle Park, Nr. Cardiff Airport Call Nicola Gibson on 01446 710099

The Glamorgan Gem ensures that w results are reported to the community a.s.a.p

We appreciate your continual support!



## The vital role that local papers play in society

OCAL Newspaper Week 2009 (May 11 -17) features high profile figures from across the UK who are rallying to the support of local newspapers and their vital role within the community.

Television presenters John Humphrys and John Sergeant have given video messages of support to the local press in celebration of the

In addition, 18 members of the Scottish parliament have pledged their support for local newspapers by signing a Local Newspaper

by signing a Local Newspaper Week 2009 motion.

MSPs applauded the significant investment made by local newspa-per publishers to deliver to an increasingly digital agenda and enhance their digital audience.

Radio and television presenter John Humphrys kicked off his journalistic career on a number of local titles in Wales.

He said: "Local newspapers hold local authorities to account. Whether you're reporting the local court or council, local papers bring the way the community works into

the way the community works into everybody's home.

"If we don't have local newspapers, who is going to do that? If people don't know what is going on in their community, how are they going to hold to account the people that run their lives? In the end, that is the point of local newsmapers. They are essential"

papers. They are essential."

Starting out at the Liverpool
Echo, television and radio journalist John Sergeant stresses the importance of local newspapers in maintaining the vitality of a com-

"Local papers are not just amazing training grounds for people like me, but they also infuse the community with that lifeblood of information, democracy and informed comment. Without local newspapers, you don't get a proper sense of community; you get no ordinary way of living."

#### Top local media facts:

- Eighty-two per cent of adults, 40 million people, read a local newspaper, making it the most widely read medium in the country (BMRB/TGI 2008).
- As a source of information about the local area in which people live, local newspapers are three times more popular than the next medium, BBC TV news. (Press
- Gazette/YouGov 2007)

  There are 1,300 local newspapers and 1,200 associated websites in the UK
- Local newspapers and their associated websites are 49 per cent more trusted and relied upon than the nearest medium, commercial TV (the wanted ads III 2007).
- Advertising on local newspaper websites is 77 per cent more likely to be believed and relied upon than advertising on other websites (the wanted ads III 2007).
- 74.6 per cent per cent of peo-ple aged between and 15 and 24 read a local newspaper (BMRB/TGI 2008).

## 'Give local papers your full support'

by PIERS MORGAN



"I LEARNED my journalistic craft on the Streatham and Tooting News, the Wimbledon News, and the Sutton Herald, and realised from my daily reporting life over that two year period just how important local newspapers are to a community.

"They're the lifeblood and the heartbeat of towns and cities up and down the country, and educate, inform and entertain local residents in equal measure in a way that national newspapers never

"In these difficult times, it is imperative that local papers are given all the support they need to survive and thrive."

## The GEM is setting the trend for many years to come

HE world of print and broadcast journalism is in chaos. Across the globe, newspapers, radio and television stations are closing down at an alarming rate.

bad news for all aspects of human life because these organs of communication are vital, disseminating information and the welfare of democracies

Sadly, nations far and wide are feeling the chill wind of decline in the media, accelerated by the worldwide credit crunch and exacerbated also by lifestyle changes and the switch to new media which is replacing the printed word

The current fashion is for newspapers to be replaced by teletext, e-mail, mobile phones and a plethora of other new media.

Among the young, the habit of reading conventional newspapers has become old hat, with iPhones, mobiles, teletext and other processes taking their place. In short, it almost seems that the world has become too busy to give time to the serious purpose of reading and absorbing rational debate

The quest for brevity and immediacy outweighs the principles on which most folk were

#### by MIKE MEREDITH

raised and nurtured.

One exception to the rule is the Tindle Newspaper Group, in which The Glamorgan

GEM has become a shining star.

In a relatively short space time, not much more than 25 years in fact, The GEM has become the dependable voice of the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend. It out-circulates most other titles in its domain.

It is run with the sound objective of putting news first in its order of priorities. Others would do well to follow its example, for it has become enormously successful within the very considerable Tindle stable.

Good journalism, sound management and an ear to the ground on all issues affecting its territory have made The GEM the valued newspaper it is today.

Decades, and even centuries ago, newspapers began their lives as free sheets and it seems likely the clock will be turned back once more. With its feet firmly on the ground and its eye on the ball, The GEM seems certain to be a beacon in south Wales for years to come

### **High Street traders** thank The GEM for its coverage

N behalf of High Street traders, I would like to thank The GEM for its ongoing coverage and support of our events.

Not only have you promoted the Christmas lights, and last year's new Victorian Fayre, and the Easter Bonnet Parade well in advance to inform the Barry and Vale public of what is planned, you have followed up the initial publicity with full reports

and pages of pictures.

High Street traders could not ask for better coverage, and we have also found it pays to advertise in The GEM.

The support of the Vale public and The GEM is what makes these events such a success.

People can keep an eye out for our next event

knowing exactly where it will be reported!

Thanks again. Tony Hopkins, Chairman, High Street

#### **BARRY TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF Y BARRI**



The Town Mayor of Barry, (2008-2009) Councillor **STUART EGAN** would like to thank

#### The Glamorgan GEM

for the excellent coverage during his year in office. "As always, The GEM has enhanced its deserved reputation as a successful community newspaper."



#### IANE HUTT, AM celebrating ten years

#### of working with The Glamorgan GEM

as the Vale of Glamorgan Assembly Member

The GEM provides comprehensive editorial news across the whole of the Vale of Glamorgan and is an important source of news for all our our communities.

The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council

Councillor **Audrey Preston** wishes to congratulate

## The Glamorgan GEM

on their reporting of local news and community issues and thanks them for



Hoffai Maer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, y Cynghorydd Audrey Preston longyfarch aelodau staff

Glamorgan GEM ar eu gwaith yn cyflwyno newyddion lleol a materion cymunedol, a diolch iddynt am eu holl gefnogaeth yn ystod

ei blwyddyn yn y swydd.

#### Congratulations to The GEM

for serving the Community.

I hold regular surgeries throughout the Vale.

me at



please contact

Chris Franks, Plaid Cymru Assembly Member

The National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA. Telephone 02920 922578

or e-mail christopher.franks@wales.gov.uk





## ocal N

## ewspaper Wee

11-17 May 2009

building stronger communities

Pupils say what the widely-travelled GEM means to them

By ANDREW CLISSETT of Barry Comprehensive School

## **'THE GEM IS HELPING PEOPLE**

THE Barry Comprehensive School has enjoyed a close relationship with The Gem for many years; a relationship we think has been bene-ficial to both institu-

The achievements of the pupils of Barry Comprehensive feature weekly in The Gem, and frequently the articles and photo-graphs making it into

print are produced by

the pupils.

The pupils, and their families, are also readers of The Gem and are always on the lookout for articles and pictures about themselves or their fellow pupils.

We asked some of the pupils who have been featured in The Gem recently to tell us what appearing in the newspaper meant to

These are some of the replies we received:

"I feel very proud when I see myself in the newspaper. My family congratulate me and my Nan cuts out the article and puts it in a memory

know that the town can recognise you for the good things that you have done.

"It gives you a morale boost and you try your hardest to be in the newspaper again. This is very important for people who try to achieve their dreams because it gives them a 'well-done

#### - Daniel Saunders, Year 9

"I recently took part in a Rotary photogra-phy competition and my parents and friends at home in Hungary were delighted to see my photograph in The GEM

per travels the world! - Doniz Simon, Year 12 Exchange Student

"When I was in the basketball photo in The GEM I was really pleased. My parents saw the picture and the article and had the page laminated. They also scanned the page and sent it to all my rela-tives, and my little cousins see it and recognise me as a role model

#### - Rhys West, Year 11

"It was the first time in my life that I had been in a newspaper. It was brilliant and my family at home in

Thailand really liked it" - Potsawee Wetphanit, Year 12 Exchange Student

"The Barry GEM published an article about mine and other students exchange year here in Barry. I sent the article home all the way to the Czech Republic so my friends and family can see what a great time I'm having.

"Now this article can be proudly displayed in Plasska 97 on our mantelpiece."

– Tereza Machacova. Year 12 Exchange Student



ABOVE: Barry Comprehensive School pupils catch up on all the local news in The GEM.

#### THE COMMUNITY **SHOP**

9-13 Cowbridge Rd PONTYCLUN are proud to be staunch ipporters of

The Glamorgan GEM which is avidly collected by news-hungry 'locals' from their shop every week!

The Charity Shop for the connoisses

The shop is the venture of the parish of Pontyclun with Talygaru.

We welcome customers and donations. We are willing to help other parishes looking at setting up similar projects.

- ★ High quality clothing
- ★ Second hand books
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- ★ Curtains ★ Children's dept prams etc
- ★ Furniture second hand ★ DVDs etc

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South Rd., Sully Tel: 02920 531700/530353



NWN Media, based in Wales, is an independent provider of world-class printing across the country.

We are proud to print the Glamorgan Gem and other Tindle titles.

If you would like more information on NWN Media's print services and the state-of-the-art KBA Commander full colour press, or for a quote to meet your printing needs, please contact



sophie.woodward@nwn.co.uk



#### COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE **SCHOOL**



being held at the Middle School site, Aberthin Road on Thursday 4th June 2009 from 6pm-7.30pm.

We are pleased to support our local newspaper who continually report our news and pupils' achievements.



We are pleased to supply **Brother Consumables** and Office Stationery to

## Glamorgan GEM

and wish them continued success

95 High Street, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 7DY Freephone: 0800 316 6283 Tel: 01446 733337 Fax: 01446

Fax: 01446 701001



Lyn Murray, teachers, pupils and parents are pleased to support

#### The Glamorgan Gem

Thank you for spreading our news Keep up the good work!

Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary School Pendoylan, Vale of Glamorgan

YSGOL GYFUN BRO MORGANNWG nig Ysgol Gyfun Cyfrwng Cymraeg y F A Welsh Medium School for the Vale

We appreciate the editorial space provided by

### The Glamorgan GEM

Rydym yn gwerthfawrogi y cyfle i sôn ám ein llwyddiannau yn

## Glamorgan GEM

Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, Heol Colcot, Y Barri CF62 8YU – Ffon/Tel 01446 450280 post@bromorgannwg.org.uk/www.yfro.org.uk Pennaeth/Headteacher: Dr Dylan E Jones

## tŷ hafan

thank you to the gem for all your kind support over the years!

10

www.tyhafan.org St. Hilary Court, Copthorne Way, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff CF5 6ES Tel: 029 2067 2060 Registered Charity Number: 1047912.

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- TRADITIONAL AND FIGHTING FIT CLASSES FOR ADULTS

#### CHIEF INSTRUCTOR Rob Copeland 5th DAN ERSTANDING DISABILITY COACH OF THE YEAR 2008

VALE OF GLAMORGAN SPORTS PERSONALITY COMMUNITY COACH OF THE YEAR' 2008 SPORTS COUNCIL FOR WALES COACH OF THE YEAR 2008

Vale Karate would like to thank **The GEM** for their continued support and congratulate them on their fantastic community coverage!

WWW.VALEKARATE.COM TEL: 01446 419701 EMAIL: robert@valekarate.com

## BARRY Comprehensive SCHOOL

The staff and pupils would like to thank

for the editorial and photographs giving Barry Comprehensive School



## Comprehensive Schoo MERTHYR DYFAN ROAD, BARRY, CF62 9YQ - Tel. 01446 403500

We would like to thank

The Glamorgan GEM

for the excellent editorial and

photographs for Bryn Hafren

**Bryn Hafren** 

Comprehensive School Age 11 - 16 Girls' School Co-Educational 6th Form



## Llantwit Major Town Council

is proud to support The Glamorgan GEM, which is instrumental in addressing community initiatives and news updates ensuring our townsfolk are continually informed.

#### THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

## Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters should include an address and contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

## **GEM** readers back Gurkhas

EW issues have ignited the passion of the British public more in recent years than the right of the Gurkhas to live in this country.

Last week, the actress Joanna Lumley held an impromptu press confer-ence with immigration Minister Phil Woolas to demand greater settle-ment rights, after five former Gurkhas said they had received letters from the Home Office saying they did not qualify to settle in Britain.

This week, a number of GEM readers have written in support of the Gurkhas.

One of our correspondents has been the

WAS somewhat

bemused on

reading last

week's GEM to see

two items on page 7

referring to our MP

A reader's letter reported him voting with

Mr John Smith.

the Government on a

Gurkhas, who have served this country loy-

years, the right to live

here. I am pleased to note that this vote was defeated.

ally for almost 200

motion denying

mayor-elect of Llantwit Major, Coun Russell Downe, who explained why he was so passionate about the Gurkhas.

Coun Downe explained: "My grandfather was a dispatch rider in the Second World War and while on active duty near the front line. crashed into a dug out well.

"He was there for three days with two bro-

ken legs. "The Gurkhas found him and got him out, saving his life. Without them. I would not have been here to write in

Surprise, surprise, on the same page of The

GEM, is a photograph of John Smith, with a dele-

gation of Gurkha soldiers, SUPPORTING

their campaign! Which side is he on,

or is it case of political expediency following

votes at the next elec-

Eileen Watkins, Tredodridge

public opinion, to secure

My support for the their support."
John Smith, the Vale's Government two weeks ago followed discussions MP has also written to The GEM (See right) to state his position on the

with the chairman of the all-party group who Motion calling for a fair- Vale of Glamorgan **MORE LETTERS ON** THE PLIGHT OF THE

rights.

célèbre'.

As an ex-serviceman

roup on Gurkha rights.

I have campaigned tire-

lessly for the equal treat-ment of former Gurkha

became a popular 'cause

soldiers long before it

and a member of the all-

party parliamentary

## 'My campaign for Gurkha rights' - MP

er ruling, which I signed; and following significant concessions obtained from the response to letters published in The GEM last Government, including week about Gurkha an early review of the proposals.

It is under the current Government that the first-ever rights of settle-ment for Gurkhas in Britain were established and equal pay and pensions were introduced -something that had not happened previously.
I can assure your

readers that I will continue to do all I can to bring about a fair outcome for the Gurkhas. whether or not this remains a popular cause.

John Smith, MP

#### **Gurkhas' loyalty** to the crown

REFER to two letters in The GEM readers' column of May 7 regarding the Gurkha soldiers settling rights.

I, together with many other readers, I suspect, was disappointed to learn that our MP Mr John Smith voted with the Government against this issue. Wasn't it good that they were defeated?

Might I ask if our MP, before he gave his vote, sought advice from his constituents? If he didn't,

I hope that he would remember who gave him the votes to become Vale of Glamorgan MP. Perhaps he hasn't heard of the Gurkhas' past history, and their loyalty to the British crown?

Perhaps his slip-up, on this occasion, may cost

him the chance of a third term as our MP. This is iust an observation.

Philip Whitehouse, Barry

## Damaged tyres

We all know the backing of the general public is with these gallant sol-10. while driving to Barry on Five Mile Lane at night, I hit a large pothole just after the Walterston turn-off.

> The impact damaged both nearside tyres on my car. Next morning, I went to the spot and took photos which I gave to the Vale Council

highways department.

I then fitted two new tyres and filled in a claim form. On May 5, I

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N February received a letter from the council's insurers saying that 'as the site of the accident is subject to inspections by the council and the last one was carried out on December 2. 2008 with no defect apparent, they are not legally liable.

When I contacted the insurers. I was told in so many words that it was 'tough luck' and to seek legal advice if I wanted. I am now out of pocket by £190!

Peter Badcock, Barry

PORTHCAWL'S Mayor, Coun David Newton Williams, who has lived in the town for more than 70 years, has just finished his year in office. Here, he reflects on that year, and on what the town means to him.

(SEE PORTHCAWL PROFILE ON FACING PAGE)
ITTLE did I know when I used

to come to Porthcawl as a young lad that one day I would live here or indeed, that one day I would be Mayor of the town that I loved from the very first time I came to stay.

So what were the odds of my achieving that honour three times?

I love it in all its moods and its seasons; not only on the glorious summer days that used to be, with blue cloudless skies, clean water, visitors galore and views that went on forever, but also in the depth of hard winters with deep drifts, frozen lakes and just the residents to greet and talk to.

A town full of character and characters who always had the time to talk to you and tell you

about the town that they remembered.

Mind you, some of them were like the Old Salt I knew in my youth who, if truth were known and you added up the years he served in ships of the line, he must have joined the navy about two years before Nelson was born.
The town has changed; but then hasn't every-

where. Life has changed, expectations have altered. Progress arrived in the shape of the Beeching Report and cheap foreign travel, and Porthcawl changed forever.

Local authority changed and no longer is the

town the master of its own destiny – and there are still those who would argue that the changes that have occurred over the years have not been to the advantage of Porthcawl.

Only last week The GEM showed photographs of car racing on Pink Bay in the 1920s; or what about Sir Alan Cobham's Flying Circus based in the Rest Bay car park? No doubt Health and Safety would put a stop to all that, if sand erosion and extreme dredging hadn't made it impossible. There is a lot of talk about regeneration – and just think, there are people living here in Porthcawl who are in their 40s and who have heard nothing but that since the time they were born – and the clock has yet to start ticking. But for all that, I love the town. It's a good place for children to be brought up in, with good schools and a good sporting ethos, and that counts

schools and a good sporting ethos, and that counts

I've thoroughly enjoyed this past year as I have the previous stints as mayor and if you were to ask what the highlights were, I would find it difficult to answer.

Laying a wreath at the Menin Gate in Ypres to help celebrate the centenary of the Porthcawl YMCA and to commemorate the lives of those from the town who were killed in both world wars, and in the skirmishes that have followed since, must be at the top of my list. My involvement with the schools and youth of

the town and my enjoyment of the vast well of musical and artistic talent that exists in the town

are also highlights.

My appreciation of the organisations of the town who work for the good of the community and the life within that community without thought of recompense or praise and yet deserve it

in trumps, is boundless.

Finally, my thanks to go everyone who has welcomed my wife and I into their lives and involved us in the wide range of social cultural and religious activity in the town.

I know that I may only have played a relatively small part in the ongoing changes, which may or may not happen, but please do not give up hope just get involved and work harder to achieve the best for Porthcawl.

#### Academy offers top quality training City and Guilds now offer new The courses are delivered by

UR experience has shown that there is a need for good professional training within south Wales.

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diploma awards, which give us the opportunity to encourage practising individuals to have a change of direction professionally, without the pressure of embarking on the full NVQ qualification. The Academy has had great

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local professionals, who have been trained to the standards of London's Goldwell Academy

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## Finnegans.... fire to finals!

IJW JONES award is particularly of Finnegans Fish Bar is

no stranger to industry awards for his fish and chips.

Regularly finishing in op place for Wales, this year they were keen contenders for the British crown.

Despite just missing out on that title, Huw 'Best in Wales 2008!

special in view of the Porthcawl shop being gutted by fire in November 2008 and reopening in March this year, following extensive refurbishment.
With branches at

Baglan, Port Talbot and Broadlands (Bridgend). there's lots of happy cus tomers - and in 2009....look out for national gold!

# Refurbished shop at STATION HILL, PORTHCAWL Just awarded best in Wales 2008

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the highest in Wales with 100 per cent of pupils each year having achieved at least five or more A\*-C grades for the last six years.

#### Praise for Bridgend hospital ward staff AM currently

tion?

**GURKHAS WILL** 

APPEAR IN NEXT

**WEEK'S EDITION** 

'U' turn as

vou wish!

an in-patient at the Princess of Wales Hospital and I feel compelled to write to praise the staff and running of ward 5.

There are a number of stroke patients on the ward who are bedridden, for whom the care can be very

time consuming - but all team members, without exception, are extremely caring, professional, efficient and unfailingly cheerful.

I have been both a nurse and a manager in commerce, and I would be proud to have any of them working in my team. Susan Thomas.

#### Llangan Speed cameras won't solve the problems

'AM no highways expert, but how is putting speed cameras at both ends of lysworney going to solve the problem of the road being too narrow?

It is certainly not going to make the road any wider. All that is going to do is put money in the coffers of whoever collects speeding fines; it won't give the lorries more room to pass through.

Mrs EM Davies, Boverton



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## Sidoli's and Pietro's carry on Italian Connection with town

been familyrun for nearly 50 years. Originally opened by Pietro and Gianna Sidoli in 1960, the busimissed, whether you are looking to enhance your ness is now run by their three sons: Mario, Luigi and Tino.

The family also took over Pietro's 15 years ago. Their Esplanade venue boasts 15-20 assorted ice cream

as an alfresco/mingling,

suntrap/sea view must! Sidoli's has opted for the popular strawberry and vanilla ice cream

Both serve panninis, toasties, popular main meals, a gateaux selec-tion and their signature freshly ground Italian

coffee and home-made ice cream - you choose







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choice in decor. Shand Kydd. Brushstrokes, the The comprehensive up-market decorating shop in Porthcawl has it all.

It stocks dozens of the very latest designer wallpaper books to browse through, from top

quality and

Laurence Llewelvn Bowen, Linda Barker, Julien Macdonald and

choice of paints range from well known quality names such as Dulux and Leyland to top-end product Farrow and Ball. The shop is run by

If seeking decor inspiration

Christopher Gadd, a scenic airbrush artist, and

Brushstrokes

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Osbourne & little Sanderson Jane Churchill

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Christine Gadd, who is an expert in interior designs and the use of colour - ideal people to give you the expert advice you need.

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## **Psychic World** at the Seabank

SYCHIC World Promotion have been coming to the Seabank Hotel since 1994 and are a popular group of excellent psychics and clairvoyants.

They will be doing private sittings. We also have crystals, tarot card, books, jewellery on sale. Open from 1pm-5pm, re-open 6pm-10pm.

Admission is £2.50. We are there on Tuesday, May 19. Demonstrations start at 7.30pm



## The Swan takes the gastropub route 'Vale' establishments.

VILLAGE pub in Nottage. Porthcawl, is rebranding itself as a 'gastropub' and has made a statement of intent by going into partnership with an award-winning chef.

A brand new menu is being unveiled at The Swan, under the auspices of Mark Thomas and Julie Jenkins, and Joe Jones the winner of the 'Welsh Young Chef of the Year' in 2008.

In fact, the public house is moving in a new direction, with a major emphasis on local produce and local

suppliers.
Mark Thomas told The GEM: "We are aiming to build personal relationships with as many suppliers as pos-sible, so that we know where all the food comes from'

He feels that there is a demand from diners to see their favourite restaurants supporting the local economy.

That applies to the drinking side as well, because real ales will be featured under the new team, with a particular relationship forged with brewers

from around south Wales, including Newmans from Caerphilly.

Recently, the pub hosted a four-day beer festival to give patrons a chance to see (and taste) the future.

On the restaurant side, young Joe comes to The Swan having worked at The Coast, which won its share of awards in its time in Porthcawl; and also at

Joe is as enthusiastic as his partners in plan-

ning a menu featuring local Welsh beef, lamb, or fish.

In fact, he can be found in the morning on the rocks on the shoreline in Porthcawl, collecting samphire something that goes well with fish in particular

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Mark and Julie are delighted to introduce their New Chef, Joe Jones Young Welsh Chef of the Year, 2008/09 an established 'favourite' chef formerly associated

with prestigious Vale/Mid Glamorgan restaurants

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## Out and About with **The G**l

## IT'S STAR TREK, JIM - BUT NOT AS WE KNEW IT!

a man with the popular culture golden touch. Having been responsible for such small screen fare as Alias, Lost and Fringe, his trips to the big screen have been just as fruitful, producing monster-movie Cloverfield and helming action blockbuster Mission: Impossible

Clay Pigeon Shooting,

Weekend activity breaks

ever, is quite possibly his most difficult; making 2009 audiences care about a franchise that lost its relevance in the

Taking the story to its origins, we meet a young James Kirk (Chris Pine), a rebellious teen who joins the Starfleet Academy hoping to find new worlds.

Meeting up with the likes of Spock (Zachary Quinto), Bones (Karl Urban), Chekhov (Anton Yelchin) and Uhura (Zoe Saldana), Kirk soon finds himself in charge

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aboard the fabled craft. I certainly wasn't one of them, never really getting the allure of Klingons and warp speeds; in fact, the only film I have ever walked out of was the last big screen Trek outing, Nemesis.

Enterprise, and on course for conflict with

Romulan intent on caus-ing all manner of

Another week, another origin tale. Yet, unlike last week's *Wolverine*,

the auspicious begin-nings of the Star Trek

gang didn't necessarily require retelling.

After all, the adventures of the Starship Enterprise on television

kick-started a lifetime of devotion for fans of the

series, some of whom

seeing a new crew

perhaps wouldn't relish

Nero (Eric Bana), a

So it was refreshing to sit down to *Star Trek* without the baggage of the various other incarnations. This is the story from its very beginning, and what a thoroughly enjoyable and satisfying story it is, delivering the blockbuster sensibilities you would hope for while also setting up the new franchise wonder-

fully well.

JJ Abrams' statement that he was more of a fan of Star Wars than Star Trek may have dis-illusioned old Trekkies (or Trekkers, you can never be sure), but his

lack of reverence for the of characters. source material means that he comes to it with a fresh pair of eyes

a fresh pair of eyes.
Taking his cue from
George Lucas' spaceopera, we get glossy
technology, dogfights in
space and a wide collection of planets and alien
life forms; we even get a
few Star Wars cribs throughout the story (our hero being pursued by a creature on an ice planet, the villain destroying a main character's planet) that smack just a touch of that franchise.

However, Abrams direction is solidly entertaining throughout. grasping the sensibility and delivering a film of scope and substance.

The screenplay, from Roberto Orci and Alex Kurtzman, strikes the right balance between paying respect to the original series' charac-ters while ripping up what has gone before and delivering something more in tune with current cinematic tastes

some of the hallmarks of the franchise, the big issues and themes absent, but there is plenty of time for that in the next one; the main aim, to set up the characters and story, is executed very well.

The only real mistake they make is one all too common when setting everything up for future instalments, and that is losing the actual story in among the introduction

The storyline of Nero wreaking havoc almost comes across as an after-thought, something that makes the casting of Eric Bana a touch super-fluous, delivering the slightest of pay-offs, and a weak one at that; but Orci and Kurtzman's build-up more than com-pensates for this shortcoming.

The performances also strike the right note, uniformly impressive but with some characters unsurprisingly sidelined in order to establish the

story. Chris Pine is hugely entertaining as Kirk, charismatic, likeable and

headstrong.
As the wayward genius who finds himself more or less thrown into this new world, he is the audience's eves and ears, and he shows a deft ability to flit between the comedic and the dramatic.

Zachary Quinto cap tures Spock's otherworldliness to a tee, while infusing him with just the right level of

Of the rest of the crew, only Karl Urban's 'Bones' McCoy and Zoe Saldana's Uhura are afforded the opportunity to shine; the remainder of the cast are victims of the script's needs rather than any weakness in their performances.

Quibbles about some of the more fanciful aspects of the storyline aside, *Star Trek* not only re-establishes a franchise that was all but dormant, but does so with a film that is engrossing and eminently watchable. How those who pray

at the altar of everything Trek will respond to seeing their favourite characters re-imagined I can

is a reboot that wholly ceeds in its aims.

Verdict - The summer blockbuster seasons starts here! A job well done for JJ Abrams and a skilled cast, *Star Trek* works both as a set-up to further adventures for the Starship Enterprise and as a thoroughly enjoyable action-adventure film in its own

right. Where the franchise goes from here is worth looking out for, as based on this evidence it is in the right hands. Recommended.





by GARETH **JAMIESON** 

Tuesday Club
LLANCARFAN Ladies Tuesday Club will meet
at Llancarfan community hall, on Tuesday, May
19, at 7.45pm.
Hilary West will give a talk on 'Flower arrang-

It is an open meeting and men are welcome.

There will be a raffle and refreshments. Visitors



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#### A SPRING fair will be held in the Lee Hall, Dinas Powys on Saturday, May 16 from 1pm-3pm.

It has been organised by Coun Steve Thomas. retiring chair of the council as part of his charity fundraising and will be hosted by Chris

Franks AM.
Stallholders will raise funds for themselves, while the proceeds of an auction and raffle will be shared between ValePlus and Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern.

Those represented include WI, RNLI, ValePlus, MD, Scouts. Vale Council, Fair Trade, DPVC, as well as a number of trade stands.

'I wish to thank all those organisations and individuals who have supported me over the year and hope that a large number of people will be able to attend this free event, which will hopefully raise a substantial amount of money for local good

the council on 029 2051 3114, or Steve Thomas on 029 2051 5764.





Walks, talks and demonstrations with Cardiff Bee Society, The Butterfly conservation, Vale of Glamorgan Orchid Society, Cardiff Bonsai Club, flowering arranging and general tours of the gardens.

For more information: 029 2059 3328 www.dyffryngardens.com dyffryn@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

## Vale trainer notches up 'maiden' win at Tredegar races with the aid of Slip Duty

OHN NORMAN (25), who rides for Vale trainer Tim Vaughan, chalked up his first winner on Robert Rowsell's Slip Duty in division one of the maiden race before a bumper crowd over the popular Lower Machen course at the Tredegar Farmers Hunt Steeplechases on

Slip Duty, a seven-year-old chesnut gelding who had spent most of the last two years grazing in a field in Ireland until being bought cheaply by owner/trainer Robert Rowsell, jumped the last just in front of Synisterdexter and held on to win by a

length.

Rowsell, a former rider and show jumper of note himself, was full of praise for his rider, who comes from the Pontypridd area. He claimed *Slip Duty* would have won on his Great Britain debut earlier

this season when made favourite, but for swallow-

For The Hell Of It, partnered by Nick Williams, made nearly every yard of the running in the sec ond division – and was some 25 lengths clear at one stage – only to get caught just before the line by *Mac Two*, ridden by the talented John Mathias.

Mac Two, who won by half-a-length, is owned and trained by Pembrokeshire National Hunt trainer Dai Rees, who said: "He may have one more run, but he is a next year horse.

If looks are anything to go on, then this *Sunshine Street* five-year-old bay gelding, who ran in bumpers in Ireland, has a bright future ahead of

Lucy Jones, riding her husband Simon's Dancing Credit, made it four wins on the bounce to win the ladies' open race coming home five lengths ahead of Mouseen, and will next run in a Stratford Hunter

#### ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

Chase.

Lucy and Simon have had six winners from seven runners this season, Derawar having won on

Pembrokeshire's Nathan Deakin (16), made near ly all the running on Ingrid Shervington's Grey Kid to take the veteran and novice riders club members

Jumping the last in front, Grev Kid, who was winning for the fourth time this season including a Hereford Hunter Chase, won by two lengths from Wishwillow Magic, and trainer Wyn Morris said a three-and-a-half mile Stratford Hunter Chase is next on the cards for this game 11-year-old. Welsh champion Rhys Hughes has struck a pur-

le patch and he had a hat trick of wins to go with his recent Banwen four-timer with Bob Bites Back (members), Classic Chance (restricted) and Overlut (men's open)

Bob Bites Back, who is also Stratford-bound, doesn't like being in front so allowed his only two

BARRY Romilly

Goch for their

and it was.

Bowling Club trav-elled to Gilfach

WBA Curruthers

Cup match which

they expected to be

a tough encounter -

On a dry, very blustery day, the match commenced on a green sur-

rounded by picturesque mountains. The green played well, and so did

the Romilly boys, winning the match 72-67.

Bannister and M Doyle led from start to finish.

They were 14-2 up after 10 ends, at which

point Gilfach served up

The game resumed

with the home side

pulling up their socks

of M Newman, D

a tea break.

Brian Foscolo's rink

rivals, CatchtheBug and Thyme Of Hope, to tow him along and, jumping the last in front, won a lot easier than the one-length verdict over

CatchTheBug suggested.

Justin Bryant's Classic Chance, trained by Cowbridge's Margaret Ree, a chance ride for Hughes, made every post a winning one to score by

Frugnes, made every post a winning one to score by three lengths from *Its Not Chesnut*.

Steve Whistance's *Overlut* had to pull out all the stops after making all in the men's open all to beat the odds-on favourite *Misamon* by a length.

Tredegar Farmers winners: Members: *Bob Bites* 

Brack (Rhys Hughes) 1-12 fav; Restricted: Classic Chance (Rhys Hughes) 8-1; Men's Open: Overlut (Rhys Hughes) 5-4; Ladies' Open: Dancing Credit (Lucy Jones) 1-3 fav; Club Members: Grey Kid (Nathan Deakin) 2-5 fav; Maiden Diy 1: Slip Duty (John Norman) 5-1; Maiden Div 2: *Mac Two* (John Mathias) 5-4 jt, fav.

Please email your sports items to the Editorial Department at: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

## Mixed start to the season for Cadoxton's bowlers

THE season opened with the first league match at Barry Athletic on April 23.

Although it was good to start the season with old friends, it was not very successful for Cadoxton.

Rink One: Cadoxton M Paterson, T Parry, N Clissett, D Davies, 11; Barry Athletic – P House, P Dancy, J Webber and A Hopkins,

31. The only good thing that can be said about this game was at least Cadoxton reached double figures.

The first three ends yielded 12 for Barry Athletic and Cadoxton were placed in a fight back position from the start

Luck did not seem to come Cadoxton's way. who were only able to pick up singles on eight

ends over the 18 ends. Rink Two: Cadoxton A Rees, J Wood, P Cox, M O'Callaghan, 16; Barry Athletic – K Taylor, G Hawkins, M Moore, A Eskins, 17.

This was a very close game with the victory going to Barry Athletic who picked up five shots on the last end.

Rink Three: Cadoxton J Pycroft, M Slee, D Evans, J Tuck, 21: Barry Athletic – G Kerslake, A Horgan, L Gatt, P Jupp,

Cadoxton were slow finding the green and did not score until the sixth end. Then, having picked up seven shots in the 7/8 end, went from strength to strength for the only victory in the match.

Final score: Cadoxton 48, Barry Athletic 62. Our second match

was an Evening League match at St Fagans on

Rink One: Cadoxton Pam Bryant, Pauline Davies, Mollie Paterson, Dot Davies, 29; St Fagans – H Eldridge, B Gibson, S Medlam, M Eldridge, 7.

Cadoxton started very strongly, winning the first five ends and put-ting St Fagans in a catch-up position from the start. The green was perfect and the Cadoxton team played well with luck being

with rather than against. Rink Two: Cadoxton Joy Wood, Jean Pycroft, Theresa Parry, Jean Tuck, 6; St Fagans – D Hill, N Aibeary, N Reynolds, L Davies, 25. Unfortunately, as the

Vale win bowl in

battle at Dunvant

scores show the ladies were unable to find the green and won only five ends of this 18-end match. Cadoxton scored one on the second end and were then unable to score until the 12th, when they started to fight back but were

unable to keep it up. Final score: Cadoxton

35, St Fagans 32.
The second league
match versus BP was on
May 7 at BP Sully. It was a very cold after-noon, very overcast and most of the teams suf-

Rink One: Cadoxton Joy Wood, Mollie Patterson, Peggy Cox, Dot Davies, 16; BP – R Williams, M Smith, S Parker, A Dainton, 15.

Cadoxton started the game with eight shots won in the first two ends. BP played catchup all afternoon. They caught up well and on gaining one shot on the last end, they lost by only one shot.

Rink Two: Cadoxton

– A Rees, J Pycroft, N

Clissett, Jean Tuck, 16;

BP – L Woodcock, C

Harris, M Greenslade, V Morgan, 21. BP started with a gain of seven shots in the first four ends. Cadoxton recovered and the score

on the 14th end of this 18-end match was equal at 15 shots.

BP won three of the last ends to bring their score up to 21 and win-

ning by five shots. Rink Three: Cadoxton – P Bryant, M Slee, T Parry, M O'Callaghan, 30; BP – B Page, A Mepham, M Clarke, B Stanton, 8.

BP dominated from the start, and little headway could be made by the Cadoxton team. They did rally around in the middle of the game but were unable to make any

impression on the score. Final score: Cadoxton 40, BP 65.

**NEW LADIES** FOR **CADOXTON** 

IT was with regret we heard that the ladies of Sully Bowling Club were unable to function as a club within the Glamorgan County Women's Bowling

Association.
This, due to their falling numbers, means the ladies have had to look to joining other clubs. We at Cadoxton would like to welcome to our club the following ladies: Mrs Paula Currie, Cath Bentley, Anne Davies, Moya Slee, Moira Connibear and Val Weare.

We wish them the greatest of success and happy bowling for many years to come.

**GUIDE DOGS FOR** THE BLIND **QUIZ AND** GRAND RAFFLE

BEING held at the Pavilion on Monday, May 25, is a fun quiz and grand raffle, the proceeds going to the Guide Dogs.

Prizes include cuddly toys, DAB radio, several bottles of wines, toiletries, whisky, gin, and many more. There will be prizes for the win-

Please come along, all are welcome. Refreshments will be available.

ners of the quiz.

team.

CDD Field and Footies', con-

and reduced the margin. However, Romilly prevailed and won this rink 19-15

Alan Bryan's rink of H Jones, R Hewitson and A Burge also had a good win and led from start to finish, which included a 5 on the ninth end for a 18-14 win.

Dave Wright's rink of A Freeman, R Harkus and G Cogbill had a good win with the skip in sparkling form. The only time his rink was not in front was on the 13th end when Gilfach went ahead by one shot

This was a strong match with Romilly doing very well to win

the game 19-17.
Richard Cowling's rink of C Geen, P Gershenson and C Collins drew the short straw and was under

pressure from start to finish. However, although they lost the rink 16-21, they did well to preserve the aggregate for their club.

Romilly bowlers shade tight

game in Carruthers Cup

Good win for Romilly A BARRY Romilly Bowls Club 'A' side entertained Millwood Bowling Club on Saturday in a SVLA match, on a dry but windy day.

Bryn Gough's rink of A Jones, J Jones and M Gershenson turned out to be the hotshots of the match with a winning score of 33-7. Bryn was full of praise for his team and their excellent performance.

Alf Woolcock's rink of A Bumford, D Ford

and G Rees also had a good result with a 22-15 win. Alf was also pleased with his team's

solid performance.

Bob Wyatt's rink of D
Knight, D Ford and C Davies had a close game but unfortunately had to play catch-up through-out. Gerald Kerslade, the Millwood skip, must have been pleased to win this rink 11-18. Vince McFarland's

rink of B Cheal, T Bloomfield and K Clements had a nightmare of a game against Derek Gorringe's Millwood team, who scored a 6 on the way to a big win of 12-29.

However, Romilly won the aggregate thanks to Alf and Bryn's teams' contributions 78-

## Wind is no match for the Glamorgan Hunt golfers

teams turned out at Southerndown Golf James (Ozzie). Glamorgan Hunt Golf Day on Friday, ported the Hunt on the May 8.

Windy conditions kept scores down, but there has to be a winner and this year it was the team of Joint Master of the Glamorgan Hunt, Martyn Edwards, who prevailed. With a good score of

107 points, three stableford scores on each hole, the team were well ahead of the second placed team, Gareth Perkins' 'Silver Foxes', on 88 points.

Caroline Kelly won the ladies' longest drive and husband Julian won nearest the pin, both playing for the NFU team.

The men's longest drive was won by Jamie Gibson from Keith's

The winning team, cleverly called 'Master,

brave sisted of Sarah Morris, Tim Morris, Martyn Edwards and Phillip

day, and thanks also to Alison, Nicola and Charlotte who provided the much needed refreshments on the 12th, having somehow 'mis the traditional 10th! 'missed'



Graham Nelson presenting Jamie Gibson with the longest drive.



Martyn, Ozzie, Sarah and Tim with Graham Nelson,

ON Thursday, May the backs. the Vale of Glamorgan schoolboys made the trip

the first half, winning rucks and mauls and releasing the backs a number of times.

The Pembroke boys fought hard and tackled as if their lives depended on it, but it was inevitable that tries would come for the Vale.

The half was crowned after good passing from get out of their own half,

Anton Grigoriou was when to Dunvant RFC to Glamorgan. tou

of the DC Thomas the Pembroke boys fired up, and it was backs to

from all areas of the field, and it took some brave defending to keep them out. As the half wno stood out was Caleb began to tire and everything that moved. Pembroke managed to score but missed the core. version, making the score 12-5 to the Vale.

by two tries from Tom another gear after the try south Wales at silly times. Trottman, who was able and started to win ball of the morning and some to outrun the defence again but found it hard to evenings.

so it was a great relief the able to convert one of the announced the last play tries for the first half to of the game and Sion finish 12-0 to the Vale of Jones ran the ball into touch for the final whis

What had been a long The game started well for the Vale boys for the Vale with the forwards on top for much of the first belf within the forwards on top for much of the first belf within the forwards. season for the Vale had

There had been some good performances on the day, but the one man

for their hard work over the season and the par-The Vale pack found ents for driving all over

## CLIVE IS THE CAT'S WHISKERS - AS FAR AS SUPPER CLUB IS CONCERNI

AS a coach, Clive Rowlands gave a fire and brimstone dressing room address that brought some players to tears and, as you would expect from a legend of Welsh rugby who has a passion for all things Welsh, TC - as he is affectionately known - had the whole room hanging onto every word as he spoke of his experiences at the top of Welsh and world rugby, and also of life in a special garden of Wales, Cwmtyrch – Upper Cwmtyrch

to be precise. The evening began with a scrump tious meal of homemade bangers and mash, prepared and served by the Fourth Horseshoe Caterers.

David East pointed out the presence of three former Welsh captains, two former Welsh coaches and two former Welsh scrum-halves – not a bad night for VIPs at a busy end of season.

Apologies were received from for-er Welsh wing Adrian Hadley, and also the irrepressible Alan Bateman, who was turning out for Heol-y-Cyw in a crucial promotion match.

There was a warm welcome for former Bridgend, Wales and Baa-Baas prop John Lloyd who was delighted to

prop John Lloyd who was delighted to return, having enjoyed the Warren Gatland evening.

Of course, the Supper Club boasts its own array of VIPs among its regular attendees, namely Onllwyn Brace, Howard Jones, Graham Hodgson, Tony Horne and Terry Casey, while Llantwit council had a representative in the Mayor's consort Dave Lane.

A special guest at the top table was Don John, editorial consultant of The GEM newspaper, which gives the Supper Club and local sport such tremendous coverage.

The evening was sponsored by Tony 'the Cobbler' Meakin, who was joined by many of the boxing club fraternity.

Last time Tony was at the club he received an award, and the theme of unsung heroes was expanded on again as David East introduced Gordon Kingston, a retired mining geology lecturer at Cardiff University who came to live in Llantwit in 1969, and immediately formed the Llantwit Major Fencing Club. It was initially linked to the youth club, with the school hall as a base, and then evolved its own identity to flourish for 35 years.

Involved since its inception, Gordon was fully engaged in developing youngsters and Llantwit became a key location for the development of Welsh fencing. Not only was Gordon a coach, he was also as an administrator and Welsh selector, and on his recent retirement he was presented with the presti-gious Silver Medal by the Great Britain Fencing Association.

He has three sons Stephen, Mark and Mathew who have successfully represented Wales, including the

Commonwealth Games.

Llantwit Major was the first club in Wales to produce young fencing developers, trained by Gordon. He no longer coaches at a high level, but expresses keen interest in veteran fencing (over 40s) still taking part at 70-plus as it is a good form of exercise. So many locals have good reason to thank Gordon over the years

He is truly one of Llantwit Major unsung heroes and was presented with a commemorative Supper Club Dragon by Clive Rowlands.

Gordon responded that he was pleasantly surprised and very honoured to receive the award among so many elite sportsmen. He said that you never do these things for reward, stressing the massive input by ama-teurs in many sports who do so much to produce stars past, present and

As always, he championed his sport's cause, pointing out the need for cash and publicity to support the all-

important grass roots level.

A humorous interlude followed with the raffle when Dr Peter Thomas laid claim to the large bottle of gin, purely for medicinal purposes of course! Many thanks to the other Peter Thomas present, whose fiver actually won the prize but who could not bear respected, octagenarian.

After a short break, David East

introduced special guest Daniel Clive Thomas Rowlands, 14 caps for Wales,

all as captain.

A talented schoolboy, Clive toured South Africa in 1956 with the Welsh Schools and made his debut for Wales in 1963 against England, partnering Dai Watkins and going on to lead Wales to their first Grand Slam for 13 years in 1965.

He played club rugby for Abercrave, Pontypool, Llanelli and Swansea. He coached Wales (1968-74), winning the Triple Crown and Grand Slam in 1971, a feat that would surely have been repeated in 1972 had the Irish game been played.

His sharp, tactical mind brought out the best of a succession of dazzling Welsh rugby sides and paved the way for the Golden Era of the late 70s. In a dressing room full of big names, he was always the boss hence the nick-name Top Cat.

As Benny (Phil Bennet) once said:
"Clive was an inspiration, a winner, a

character, when they made him they

threw away the mould."

An excellent triple jumper as a voungster, he went on to become a teacher, a Welsh captain, the only man in history to have captained, coached, managed and acted as President of Welsh Rugby.
Clive was inducted into the first-

ever Welsh Rugby Former International Players Association Hall of Fame, sponsored by Honda, alongside the likes of Harry Bowcott, Viv Jenkins, Dr Jack Mathews, Bleddwyn Williams, Delme Thomas, Gareth Edwards, Ieuan Evans and Neil Jenkins.

Having recovered from cancer in the 90s, he has raised £70,000-plus for cancer charities, boosted by a £425 cheque from the Supper Club.

When Clive rose to speak there was no standing at the top table. Microphone in hand for him – like a biblical scene, the tables parted for Clive to prowl the room like a circus tiger whose cage door had been left

Not a note in sight, he spoke from the heart with a nod, a wink, a com-forting arm as he noted characters in the room several of whom he had not

seen since his playing days.

He began in Welsh, a first for the Supper Club, to give sincere thanks for the invitation to follow so many famous names. He spoke fondly of Cwmtyrch throughout, as he talked on the theme of how much rugby matters

to our nation.

He recalled the infamous '111 game' against Scotland in 1963 which Wales won 6-0, a drop goal from Clive and a penalty kicked by Graham

Hodgson.
Wales won the dour contest as the ball was kicked into touch time after time by 'yours truly' at scrum-half, to yield 111 lineouts and bring about the law change which has helped shape the modern game.

As Clive says, he got the blame but 's sure Dai Watkins and Graham Hodgson kicked the ball out once or

He approached Onllwyn Brace, another great Welsh scrum-half, who, for his sins, had taught Clive how to kick. Onllwyn quickly pointed out he may have taught him how to kick, but not when.

The game brought the late great rugby writer JBG Thomas to muse that he would write Clive's obituary headline as 'Clive kicks the bucket'. As a 10-year-old at the time, all I can remember is Wales winning and Clive and his team arrived back in Wales as

The theme of Clive's talk was car-ing is important, and Wales winning is important, and how much rugby success matters to the Welsh nation, the

so-called feel good factor. Clive then spotted John Lloyd, a unanimous choice as skipper by his contemporaries when Clive was in charge of the Welsh team, and a great servant to Welsh rugby as player, captain and coach.

He said John was the first of a new breed of front row forward, fortunate that Bridgend and Llantwit favourite Brian Jones had taught him all he

knew, Clive then approached Brian's table to shake his hand and say how unlucky he had been not to be capped.

The Welsh tour to New Zealand in 1969 was another topic to keep everyone engrossed, with coach Clive causing a stir by suggesting that the All Blacks best back, Sid Going, would

not get in the Cwmtyrch under-11s.
Fergie McCormack's boot condemned Wales to defeat, despite Wales
fielding a backline of JPR, Maurice Richards, John Dawes, Keith Jarrett, Gerald Davies, Barry John and Gareth Edwards.

Clive's other retort that Wales could always go back home and beat England also raised a few eyebrows in the press.

They say that behind every good

man there is a good woman and Clive revealed his wife Margaret's influence on his rugby career, with her considerable knowledge of the game derived from growing up with five elder rugby-mad brothers, the well-known Jeffrey boys.

Clive then reiterated that rughy matters so much to so many. What is great about rugby is the people. He highlighted Graham Hodgson saying that the modern game has no better punter of the ball and how he and Graham were friends for life.

Clive chatted about another great rugby friend, the wonderful Waka Nathan, one of many stories that kept everyone riveted.

Clive stated how much it meant to him personally to have represented his country, and he was so passionate and vivid in detail that you could almost smell the liniment in the Welsh changing room.

He may have gone around the hous-

es once or twice, but he always came down to earth in Cwmtyrch.

Clive's humour was brilliant, often subtle with his beaming, cheeky scrum-half smile showing a man content with his hectic 71 years. It is obvious he would swap nothing from a wonderful past.

His references to Cwmtyrch and its links with Royalty and the Higher Clergy were hilarious, and he finished the evening by thanking everyone for listening, encouraging the Supper Club to keep it going as it is a marvellous occasion.

Everyone in the room rose as one to give Clive a richly-deserved standing ovation, and he was presented with a special Supper Club Dragon by Llantwit Major RFC chairman Mike

What made Clive such an exceptional guest was not only his oratory and vivid recollection of a lifetime of wonderful experiences, but also the time he took to speak to individuals and groups both before and after the

DAI GRIFFITHS



ABOVE (left): Clive Rowlands in full cry,

AROVE MC David East opens the proceedings.

LEFT: Gordon Kingston who formed Llantwit Major Fencing Club.





#### Southerndown Surf Club youngsters in Welsh finals



ABOVE: The under-12 years entered the Welsh National Surf contest. Left to right: Josh Brace (10), Cieran Hughes (nine), Owen Alexander (11), Tyler Rogers (11) and Callum Howell (10).

ON bank holiday weekend (May 2-3), a small contingent from Southerndown Surf Club braved the surf (and cold nights camping) to test their skills against the best surfers in Wales, at the Southerndown Surf Club members coming away Quicksilver Welsh National Surfing with trophies. Well done to all who entered, the club Championships, at Freshwater West, and coaches are very proud. Pembroke.

Surfers from all over the country turned up to participate in the event.

Josh Brace, Cieran Hughes, Owen Alexander, Tyler Rogers and Callum Howell (left to right in photo) all entered the under-12 category, with Rhys Alexander and Danny Rogers entering the under-18 category.

The under-18s was held in solid five - six foot surf, where both Rhys and Danny put on good performances.

All the under-12s surfed well, with Owen, Josh, Callum and Cieran progressing through to the semi finals. There they battled it out in challenging surf conditions, and two close fought semi-finals saw Cieran and Owen make it through to the final. The final was again very close between Cieran

and Owen for third and fourth places. With mums

and dads biting fingernails, the eventual result saw Cieran in third place and Owen in fourth, with Callum and Josh placed equal fifth.

In a great atmosphere on a sunny weekend in

Pembroke everyone had a fantastic time, with two of and coaches are very proud.

Southerndown Surf Club was formed last April by

the parents and children of Ogmore-by Sea, Southerndown and St Brides Major and with the help of a Community Chest Grant from the Vale of Glamorgan CC.

NICK HOWELL

#### EMAIL US!

 WE welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

## All Saints children have a sword handling lesson with the medieval knight Sir Andrew!

THE year-2 pupils at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School enjoyed a spectacular end to the spring term with a visit to Castell Coch as part of their history studies.

The children enjoyed a tour of the castle and learned about its fascinating history, having been built on the site of a former medieval castle to fulfil the dream of the Marquess of Bute in Victorian times.

They marvelled at the fantastic creations of the

They marvelled at the fantastic creations of the architect and designer, William Burges, as they followed a trail and completed work sheets with details of what they saw.

The children negotiated tricky spiral stairs,

The children negotiated tricky spiral stairs, enjoyed a walk around the towers and gallery and visited the wonderfully ornate rooms once occupied by the Marquess and his family.

by the Marquess and his family.

They had a sword handling lesson from Sir Andrew, the medieval knight, and listened to a selection of Aesop's Fables, told and sung by the Dream Weaver in the beautiful drawing room where the walls were decorated with many illustrations from the stories.

They enjoyed a picnic lunch in the castle courtyard and visited the woods to smell the wild garlic before returning to school.

returning to school.

The children thanked their teachers, Mrs Koursaros and Mrs Martin, for arranging a lovely day out which really brought their history lessons to life.

























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77

144

60

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35

17

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48

17

37

132

40

55

109

62

81

44

33

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76

14

105

Warden and alarm

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Band

SILVER

**GOLD** 

GOLD

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GOLD

**BRONZE** 

GOLD

Reg.

13/05/04

29/10/08

22/04/08

19/06/08

17/06/08

04/02/08

05/09/08

29/06/07

09/03/09

22/01/08

21/10/08

27/10/08

13/12/07

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25/06/08

21/01/09

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warden and water charges

First floor

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Central heating

Double glazing

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person or couple over

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### NEWS FROM PENARTH **COMPUTER CLUB**

## Magical qualities of the Format Painter

AN eminent engineer once said that if you have a difficult problem, ask a lazy engineer to solve it.

That way you would get an elegant solution with half a page of calcula-tions, whereas an energetic enthusiast would probably produce an inferior solution in half a book taking ten times

as long.
One suspects that it was such an engineer (lazy and software variety) that came up with the Format Painter. It is such a useful device that it is hard to understand anyone who fails to use it unless they A) have no need of it; B) are unaware of it or C) love squandering their time.

For the unaware, it is the button bearing a pasting brush and normally on the standard toolbar and you really should try it out.

(If it is missing, right-click on a toolbar and select Customise from the drop-down menu. On the Toolbars tab click on Standard to highlight that tool-bar and then click on the Commands tag. Highlight Format in the left-hand pane and the available commands will appear in the right-hand pane. Click on Format Painter and drag it to the toolbar on the main window and drop it.)

So what does it do? Exactly what it says on the tin! When you are working on a document, be it text or a spreadsheet you often need to do something special with a piece of it.

It might be underlining, making bold or italic or even using a completely different font on a poster or invita-

You might even provide a back-ground colour to highlight some text or provide different coloured lines on text all.

It is perfectly feasible to combine 029 2070 8439. several effects onto a single object or

After fiddling about for some time with several options, you finally settle on something you like. If you then decide that you want something else to look just the same, the format Painter will do the job in a trice. Select (ie highlight) anything that has the format you want to replicate (it

need only be a small sample); click on the Format Painter button and when you highlight the next thing the wanted formatting will magically be applied to

The freshly formatted bits do not even have to be in the same document; the Painter will happily work between

If you want to copy the formatting several times then highlight the original formatted sample as before and double-click on the Format Painter

Now you can highlight a series of things and each will be painted with the original formatting until you click on the button again to stop it. Because it is easy to undo if you go wrong there

is no risk of a disaster.

In the same vein there are other buttons that might fill the bill for something that you do that is not quite mainstream. If enough people have asked for it, it is likely that a software engi-neer has designed one to do the job.

For example, there is a button to highlight text for you, just like the one you would use on paper. You can find it in exactly the same way as noted above for the Format Painter.

It is great for emphasising a point. While you are there, have a browse around the other commands. You should be able to find a few helpful ones. There are over 1500 of them after

For more information, telephone

HOWARD DESMOND

## School's pride in its Barry Island garden

CHILDREN from Gladstone Primary School's after school gardening club went along to view their exhibit at the recent **Royal Horticultural** Show in Society

Cardiff. Local primary schools were invited to design a garden within a wheel-barrow and Gladstone's gardening club, run by Sarah Kilbride and Christine Good, chose the theme of Barry Island.



They undertook research about the types of plants that grow near the sea, apainted the wheelbarrow sky blue and decorated it with sea creatures. The wheelbarrow was planted with a range of grasses, succulent plants and other

Teacher Sarah Kilbride said: "Our gardening club worked really hard as a team to design and plant their wheelbarrow. We were really proud to see it on display in Cardiff."

## Vale Karate raises £1,000 for Ty Hafan

organised a series of fund-raising events in aid of Ty Hafan.

was organised at Vale Karate's base, the Karate's base, the YMCA Hub with many adult and junior teams.

tors put themselves at the pyjamas and the remain-raised mercy of their students, der disguised as their Hafan.

Sensei! Later at Barry Town FC an adults quiz took place and May 1, saw Vale Karate's Friday

several wearing their traditional Karate uniforms. Vale Karate's instruc- a number wearing their

VALE Karate has 'the Stocks' for Soak the favourite Superheroes, with Spiderman, Batman, Superman, Catwoman and even one or two Power Rangers in atten-On April 25, a evening class become a Dodgeball competition was organised at Vale More than 80 children class was followed by the the turned up to train with adult class where the theme continued!

The various events raised £1,000 for Ty TØ LET

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Public Notices

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers

under the Local Authorities Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2007 has made an Order which shall come into effect on the 1st June 2009 identifying places detailed in the Schedule below as designated public places pursant to the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 (as amended by the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006).

The Order allows a police officer and other accredited persons, to control the consumption of

alcohol within designated places. If they believe that someone is consuming alcohol or intends to consume alcohol they can require them to stop or they can confiscate the alcohol.

Any person who fails without reasonable excuse to comply with an officer's request under this

sion may commit an offence and may be issued with a penalty notice for disorder or may ble to prosecution.The areas proposed are identified and described in the Schedule below.

Vale of Glamorgan Council

Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001

Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in

**Designated Public Places) Regulations 2007** 

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equired to cover maternity leave in Llantwit Major split shift - Thursday, Friday plus Saturday mornings. Must be an enthusiastic person, computer/telephone skills essential, good computer/telephone skills essential, good communication and ability to be flexible. Training given. Starting date: June 15, 2009. CV to: West Farm Veterinary Clinics Ltd, North Road, Cowbridge CF71 7DF.

#### Family Notices

## Harold (HARRY) **HARRISON**

of Westgate, Cowbridge Peacefully on May 4, 2009, aged 87, at Brocastle Manor Care Home, Bridgend.

Much-loved husband of fifty nine years to Vera, and father of Sally and Roger, grandad to Ben, Lucy, Daniel, Owen and Siân, great-grandfather to Sophie and Alissa, father-in-law to John and Barbara.

Well-known and popular Cowbridge resident and former electrical contractor, Harry will leave a hole in the hearts of all that knew him. Many heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been involved in his care both at home and lately at Brocastle.

Funeral Friday 15 May, 12 noon, at Holy Cross Church Cowbridge, followed by burial at The Limes Cemetery Flowers to Greengate, St Brides Major CF32 0SB, or donations to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

#### VAUDIN

Peacefully on May 8, 2009, Margaret (née Mahoney), of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved wife of Michael and loving mother of Mark and Christopher. Resting at WA Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major, until the funeral on Monday May 18, 2009.
Service in Coychurch Crematorium at 3.45pm. Family flowers only but donations may be given to the Salvation Army c/o the Funeral Director.

#### Dorothy **SEWELL**

Peacefully at Pen-Y-Bont Court Nursing Home on Wednesday May 6, Dorothy, aged 89 years. Beloved wife of Eric, loving mother of Andrew and the late Keith.

Funeral service Monday May 18 at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge at 1.15pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to: The Alzheimers Society, Oldwell Court, Ty Gwyn Road, Penylan, Cardiff (F23 5DA). Enquiries to Thomas Bros, tel: 01446 775681

#### **GALTON Paul**

On May 9, peacefully at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Paul of Flemingston. Beloved husband of Elizabeth, dearly-loved father of Karen, Kerry, Donna, Mark and Alana, a much-loved grandfather and great-grandfather. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday May 19, service and interment 2pm at Flemingston Church. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

#### **TYDEMAN** Eileen

Peacefully after a short illness at the Waverley Care Centre, Penarth, on May 10, 2009.

Eileen, beloved mother of Jackie, much-loved mother-in-law of Jeff, also a loved grandmother to Paul and John.

Eileen will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at James Summers and Son, Lavernock Court, Penarth, until the funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday June 5, 2009 at 2.15pm.

Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

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SCHEDULE

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BARRY

Bassett Park

Dated: I4th May 2009.

Poplars Park, Co

Milburn Park, Rhoose

LLANTWIT MAJOR

Parade Gardens, The Parade, Barry

LAND DESIGNATED BY DESCRIPTION

St David's Park/St Cyres Field, Penarth

All Saints Church grounds, Victoria Square, Penarth

Llantwit Major Train Station and adjoining car park

Pembroke Terrace Play Area, Pembroke Terrace, Penarth Cwrt-y-Vil/ Old Penarthians Recreation Ground, Penarth

Community Centre Grounds and play area, Stewart Road, Rhoose Rhoose Railway Station and adjoining car park, Rhoose

The Knap, Barry including the Promenade, Cold Knap Gardens, Bron y Mor car park, Knap Car Terrace and the green open space adjoining Marine Drive

Gladstone Park, Gladstone Gardens, Memorial Hall grounds and car park

Hatch Quarry Play Area and Little Hill Park open space off Brock Street

Nap Car Terrace and one green open space agoining "rainie Drive Barry Island including Whitmore Bay, the Promenade including the gardens and adjoining Friars Road, car park, Paget Road, Station Approach and the Amusement Park, Maslin Park, Plymouth Road, Archer Road between Phyllis Street and Plymouth Road. Amherst Crescent and adjoining green spaces, Nor Street and adjoining back lanes, Nell's Point, the green space adjoining St Baruch's Chapel, Jacksons Bay

Gibbonsdown Estate including Pendoylan Close, Michaelston Close, Coychurch Rise, Laleston Close, Ogmore Place and the adjoining green space, Dale Court, St Catherine Court, Cwrt Pencoedtre, Clos Lawhaden, Aberaeron Close, Columbus Close, Magellan Close, Ramsey Road,

**Thompson Street Estate** including lower Thompson Street, Belvedere Crescent including the Community Centre grounds, play area and rear lanes

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Black, 5-dr hatchback, MoT January 2010

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#### VALE PACT MEETINGS

ILLTYD PACT, Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry, today (May 14) (7pm).

RHOOSE PACT, Celtic Way Community Centre, May 26 (7pm).

SULLY PACT, Jubilee Hall, June 1 (8pm). CORNERSWELL PACT, Cogan Leisure Centre, June 2 (7pm).

CADOC PACT, Palmerstone Community Learning Centre, June 3 (7pm).



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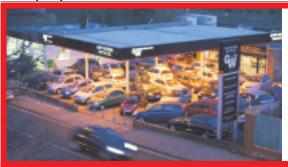
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## BARRY WANDERERS CRICKET ROUND-

## First team make bright start to the new season

First XI vs Sully Centurions Third XI The 2009 season got underway when local rivals Barry Wanderers and Sully Centurions met in an eagerly-anticipated encounter at Haves Point.

New Wanderers skipper Jamie Keir lost the toss and was invited to bat by the Centurion captain on what looked like a green and slightly damp wicket.

All indicators showed it would be a testing time for the open-ing Wanderers pair of Sherriff and Coleman. However, they got their team off to a good start, with Sherriff playing the aggressor, and they put on 41 for the first wicket.

Once Coleman had departed, Wanderers suffered a minor

wobble with Blundell and Bowen both departing for eight, and then danger man Sherriff for a confident 48. This left the home side wobbling on 77-4.

The situation got worse for the Hayes Point men as the middle-order collapsed, with Tucker departing for what was a promising-looking 11, and Keir and Singh both out without scoring. However, the combination of James Hassett and Richard Johnson guided Wanderers out of trouble by putting on 54 for the eighth wicket.

A combination of watchfulness against the dangerous flight and guile of Ben Callow (3-22) and some lusty blows by Johnson allowed Wanderers to reach 177-9 from their 45.

Johnson's 54 not out showed what the side had been missing

last season as he held the Wanderers' innings together while driving them forward with some truly mighty hits.

Wanderers knew they would have to bowl and field well if they were to restrict their neighbours and, after some initial nerves, the opening pair of Beckett and Hassett were able to limit Miller and D P Sylvester to just 29 off the first 12 overs. Backed up by some tight fielding in the ring, Wanderers were able to strangle the runs out of the Centurions' innings with some miserly bowling from Blundell and Pathak. The two bowled beautifully as a partnership and, after drinks were taken with Sully on 58 off 22 overs, Wanderers struck with Blundell claiming the key wicket of Miller with the help of a good catch from Coleman.

After this, the wickets continued to fall and, once they had bowled straight through their allotted 10 overs, Blundell had claimed 4-29 and Pathak 1-17.

Hassett, Johnson and Beckett - who bowled excellently in his nine overs, claiming three victims for just 17 runs – cleaned up the rest of the Sully batsmen and they were all out in the 42nd over for 120.

Wanderers won by 57 runs and claimed 25 points. An excel-

lent all-round team performance

The Barry Wanderers 'SofaSofa man of the match' was Richard Johnson for his game changing knock and tidy middleinnings bowling

#### BARRY WANDERERS 2ND XI v NEWPORT FOURTHS

After all the long hard winter season training (frequenting pubs and watching the winter test series on Sky Sports) the Second XI went into the league season with new hope, vigour, optimism, enthusiasm and every other euphemism you can think of.

Unfortunately this was matched by a less than strong availability due to the Bank Holiday weekend. The Wanderers' new skipper Chris Barnes won the toss and elected to bat.

B Gist and C Barnes made a watchful start in sunny conditions on a delightful track. This steady start was halted as Barnes yorked himself.

The youth and exuberance of a good Newport side had the Wanderers in trouble and T Ridgwell was back in the pavilion for a duck, again bowled. The ship was steadied by B Gist and M Ellis who put on 43 runs for the next wicket. The pressure was beginning to tell though, with runs drying up and Ellis wafted at a straight ball and was bowled for 30

Gist continued to bat stoically and eventually departed for 24. The innings lost its way a bit from there on in but a few late cameos from Morgan, Patel, Sanders and Furnham saw the Wanderers gain two valuable batting points and end up on 125 for 8 off their 45 overs.

The idea was to put pressure on the Newport batsmen from the off in defending such a small total. Morgan and Patel bowled a tight line and length and the scoreboard ticked over at less than two an over. Morgan eventually made the break-through with Ellis taking a sharp catch at mid wicket with the

Soon after, skipper Barnes joined the party with a smart stumping off Morgan and it was game on. H Davies and T Carter then proceeded to take the game away from the

Wanderers with some smart batting and good quick calling.

However, with the score on 97 Carter top-edged a shot and Dave Morgan came steaming in from mid off like a raging bull and took a storming catch, giving the Wanderers renewed opti-

Change bowlers Furnham and Ellis took three wickets in quick succession to leave Newport reeling at 117 for 6, and it was again game on.

However it was too little too late and Newport won the game in the 41st over, passing the Wanderers total of 125 with six wickets down. A game played in great spirits with many positives to take out of the game.

BARRY WANDERERS 2ND XI: 125 for 8 (Ellis 30, Gist

24) Carter 3 - 18

NEWPORT FOURTHS: (H.Davies 39, T.Carter 26) Morgan - 15, Ellis 2 - 15

Wanderers player of the match -: Mark Ellis

#### SUNDAY FRIENDLY v PENCOED

On a slightly damp track, captain James Hassett won the toss and elected to bowl, hoping to make use of the new ball and the pitch conditions.

Hassett opened the bowling with Andrew Fenton playing his first weekend fixture of the season, aand Peter Beckett fresh from a good performance on Saturday.

Pencoed's opening batsmen started positively hitting 26 off the first four overs, In the fifth over Beckett struck, bowling the dangerous Renford for 10,

In the next over, Fenton got in on the action, knocking Morgan's off stump out of the ground. The openers continued their great work, taking two further wickets and leaving Pencoed struggling on 57-4 after 12 overs.

Skipper Hassett replaced Beckett (5-2-22-2) with Wanderers' debutant Tane Rogers. Looking a bit nervous Pencoers eattled wickly bowling with pencoers and accuracy and

Rogers settled quickly, bowling with pace and accuracy and causing Pencoed's middle order some problems.

Fenton bowled his eight overs at the hospital end and finished with figures off 8-1-40-2. With Pencoed 76-4 after 16 overs, Hassett decided to try and keep up the pressure by bringing himself on at the hospital end.

Having struck with two wickets in his first two overs Hassett took his third wicket with his first ball of his third over getting the wicket of young J Frowen, caught at cover by Fenton.

He struck again next ball with Gist taking a fine low catch behind the stumps, so with the possibility of a hat-trick, and never having taken one before, he packed men around the bat.

With the batsman looking nervous and the fielders hungry for a catch, Hassett delivered a ball that caught the inside edge of the bat sending it straight to the man at leg slip. With no time to react Rogers made a fine attempt, only for the ball to strike his hands and fall agonisingly out of reach of a second attempt.

The skipper finished with superb figures of 5-4-6-4. With Pencoed 100-8 and after a solid spell from Rogers (6-0-27-0), Hassett brought on Ian Ford (2.2-0-6-2) who only needed 2.2 overs to finish off the innings, bowling Pencoed out for 105.

With yet another fine bowling and fielding performance by the Wanderers, skipper Hassett was the happier of the two captains going into tea.

The in-form Jamie Keir and youngster Luke Denning opened the batting and the Wanderers got off to a fine start, with Keir the aggressor, hitting the ball to the boundary with ease and moving the score to 53 after only 15 overs.

Denning was the first to go for five, being adjudged lbw off

the bowling of R Morgan. With Mark Ellis in at three and Keir looking set, the Wanderers hoped the experience now at the crease would see them home.

However, when Ellis was caught at cover off only his second ball and with Keir given out lbw having scored 41, the traditional Wanderers middle order collapse had started. They lost a further three wickets for just 18 runs and were struggling on 77-6 after 26 overs,

All this damage was caused by a fine spell of bowling by R.Morgan, who finished with figures of 8-4-11-4. With him now out of the attack and plenty of overs remaining. Fenton (10\*) and Hassett (18\*) took no risks in guiding the Wanderers to victory, with Fenton hitting the winning runs with seven overs remaining.

The Spectrum Displays Sunday man of the match was skip-

## Dinas unlucky as Bryntirion take the points

DESPITE the scoreline, this was a much better performance than in on his toes to push a box. recent games by cross-cum-shot from T Dinas and they could count themselves unlucky not to be in front at half-time.

front foot, and after some great one touch passing Liam Beattie was played in but was ruled just off-

At the other end, ex-Dinas striker Nana Baah managed to play the ball managed to play the ball right flank, but disaster back to Brian Burke as then ensued when he lost his footing, but his shot was easy for Alex Skinner to gather to gather the state of the managed to play th Alex Skinner to gather.

On the 20-minute mark, Beattie was played in by Mark Greedy but fluffed his shot, which was easy for Josh Payne

#### **DINAS POWYS BRYNTIRION ATHLETIC 3**

Max Morgan around the upright. Just before the break.

Keyon Refell was put through with just the keeper to beat. He elect-Dinas started on the ed to shoot low when a lob looked to have been the best option and his effort was smothered by

Dinas started the second period well with Beattie probing down the simple tap-in to open the scoring.

Dinas looked to have Beattie corner, but the Clydach referee disallowed the evening, to gather and clear. referee disallowed the evening Skinner then had to be effort for pushing in the 6.30pm.

This knocked the stuffing out of the home side and they lost their discipline and concentra-

tion Bryntirion substitute Richard Hodge made it 2-0 after a mix-up in the Dinas defence.

Nana Baah bagged his second goal after a goalmouth scramble to complete the scoring.

To compound the misery for Dinas, Liam Beattie was shown a red card in the final minute of the game for some-thing said to the referee.

The Villagers must equalised when Nathan now re-group as they Hosgood headed home a host Cambrian and kick-off

## Rhoose boxer sets the record straight

ON May 2, Lee the water rotation of the boxing for the Leisure Centre, this close bout the Cwmcarn boxer.

Centre, this close bout the vent to the Cwmcarn boxer.

Five days later, on a ABC, was in action in the semi-finals of Boys Club of Great Marcus Pinnock who Lee

## **Eagles** grading success

Eagles Kickboxing Club held its gradings, and no fewer than five A-star passes were registered under the scrutinising eyes of Sensei Dean Young and Sensei Dave Tolcher-James.

Chloe Young and Logan Evans were successful at brown-3 belt, with Sharon Jones, Lisa Clement and Joanne Metcalfe claiming their orange belts after a very physical grading.

Congratulations to Sensei Dean Young on the tremendous results of his Cardiff University fight team.

In their very first competition under the guidance of Sensei Young the 16-strong team travelled to Kent to take on a team from Kent University with no fewer than nine students reaching the semi-finals, and five gaining places in the finals, three of whom brought home a winner's trophy.

He faced the current Britain Nathan Nicholls, from the Cwmcarn ABC.

show at Ely, Lee met the other losing semi-finalist champion, had lost to previously.

Welsh champion, thought The bout got off to a he was in for an easy fast pace with Lee taking night, but Lee had other the bout to Nicholls, ideas. Lee won comfortforcing him on to his ably on points, setting the back foot from start to record straight.



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